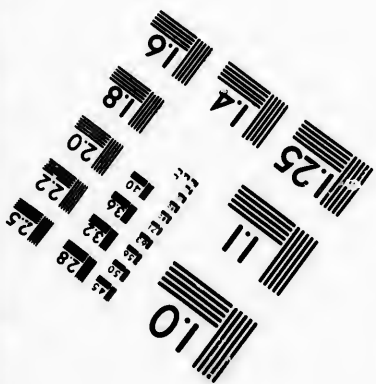
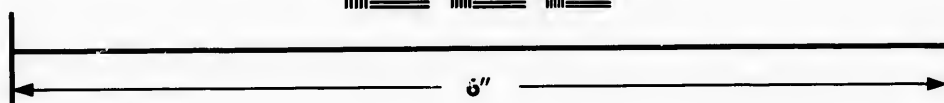
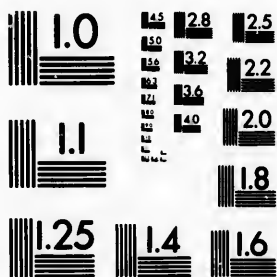


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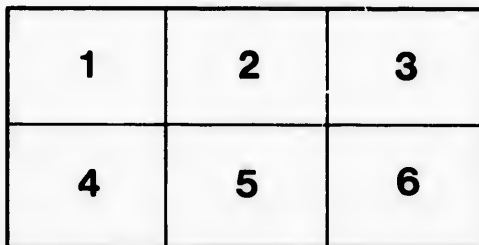
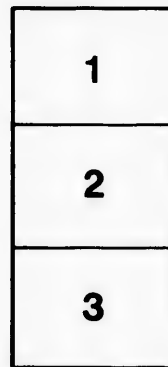
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# P R E F A C E.

**F**UTURE generations will perhaps view the late revolution in North America, as the most singular phenomenon that ever appeared in the political hemisphere of any nation.

To point out the gradual steps by which America finally obtained her independence, to describe those terrible scenes of rapine, blood, and slaughter, which accompanied those struggles, so fatal to thousands of brave officers and men on both sides, and so ruinous to the finances of the mother-country, are principally the objects of this epitome.

In the execution of this business, we have endeavoured to divest ourselves of every spark of national prejudice, and have therefore contented ourselves with barely relating facts, without presum-



P R E F A C E.

ing to give our opinion thereon, wishing to leave our readers the sole power of judging for themselves.

Besides the detail of these important events, we have given an account of the customs and manners of the original inhabitants of North America, and such as they nearly are at this day. We have also shewn at what time, and by what causes, the British colonies in North America were first settled, and have marked their rise from their original insignificance, till they became *Thirteen United and Independent States.*

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C H A P. I.

**B**EFORE we proceed to describe what America is at present, or by what means she became independent of the Mother Country, it cannot be disagreeable to our readers, to be informed of the persons, customs, and manners, of the original inhabitants of North America.

The native American Indians are tall and straight in their limbs, beyond the proportion of most nations. Their bodies are strong, but more fitted to endure much hardship, than to continue long at any servile work, which they cannot support. Their bodies and heads are flattish ;  
B their

their features are even and regular, but their countenances fierce; their hair long, black, lank, and very strong, but without beards. The colour of their skin is a reddish brown, which most of them admire, and take proper methods to improve.

The Europeans, on their first arrival in America, found the Indians quite naked, except those parts, which it is common for the most uncivilized people to conceal. Since that time, they have generally a coarse blanket to cover them, which they buy from their neighbours. The whole tenor of their lives is of a piece: they are hardy, poor, and squalid; and their education, from their infancy, is solely directed to fit their bodies for the mode of life they pursue, and to form their minds to inflict and endure the greatest evils. Their only occupations are hunting and war, for agriculture is left to their women.

As soon as their hunting season is over, which they go through with much patience, and in which they exert great ingenuity, they pass the rest of their lives in entire indolence. They sleep half the day in their huts, and observe no bounds of decency in their eating and drinking. Before the Europeans discovered them, they had no spirituous liquors; but now, the acquire-

acquisition of these is the principal object of their pursuit.

The Indians are grave, even to sadness, in their deportment upon any serious occasion, observant of those in company, respectful to the old, and of a temper cool and deliberate. They are never in haste to speak before they have thought well of the matter, and are sure the person, who spoke before them, has finished all he has to say. They have, therefore, the greatest contempt for the vivacity of the Europeans, who interrupt each other, and frequently speak all together. In their public councils and assemblies, every man speaks in his turn, according as his years, his wisdom, or his services to his country, have ranked him. Not a word, not a whisper, not a murmur is heard from the rest while he speaks; no indecent condemnation, no ill-timed applause. The younger class attend for their instruction, and here they learn the history of their nation; here they are inflamed with the songs of those who celebrate the warlike actions of their ancestors; and here they are taught what are the interests of their country, and how to pursue them.

Though the American Indian is naturally humane and hospitable, yet, to the enemies of his country, or to those who



have privately offended him, he is implacable. He conceals his resentments, he appears reconciled, till, by some treachery or surprize, he has an opportunity of executing an horrible revenge. No length of time is sufficient to allay his resentment, no distance of place great enough to protect the object; he crosses the steepest mountains, he pierces the most impervious forests, and traverses the most hideous bogs and deserts for some hundreds of miles, bearing the inclemency of the seasons, the fatigue of the expedition, the extremes of hunger and thirst, with patience and cheerfulness, in hopes of surprizing his enemy, on whom he exercises the most shocking barbarities.

The Americans have scarce any temples; for, as they live by hunting, inhabit mean cottages, and are given to change their habitation, they are seldom very religious. Some appear to have little ideas of God; others entertain better notions, and hold the existence of the Supreme Being, eternal and uncorruptible, who has power over all. Satisfied with owning this, which is traditionary among them, they pay him no sort of worship.

The darling passion of the Americans is liberty, and that in its fullest extent: to liberty the native Indians sacrifice every thing.

thing. This is what makes a life of uncertainty and want supportable to them, and their education is directed in such a manner as to cherish this disposition to the utmost. They are indulged in all manner of liberty; they are never, upon any account, chastised with blows, and very rarely even chidden.

Though some tribes are found in America with a king at their head, yet his power is rather persuasive than coercive, and he is revered as a father, more than feared as a monarch. He has no guards, no prisons, no officers of justice. In some tribes, there are a kind of nobility, who, when they come to years of discretion, are entitled to a place and vote in the councils of the nation. But among the Five Nations, or Iroquois, the most celebrated commonwealth of North America, and in some other nations, there is no other qualification absolutely necessary for the headmen, but age, with ability and experience in their affairs.

Whenever any affair of consequence is to be transacted, they appoint a feast, of which almost the whole nation partakes. There are smaller feasts on matters of less general concern, to which none are invited but those who are engaged in that particular business. At these feasts it is against all

rule to leave any thing; so that, if they cannot eat all, what remains is thrown into the fire. They look upon fire as a thing sacred, and in all probability their feasts were anciently sacrifices. Before the entertainment is ready, the principal person begins a song, the subject of which is the fabulous or real history of their nation, the remarkable events which have happened, and whatever matters may conduce to their honour or instruction. The others sing in their turn. They have dances too, with which they accompany their songs, chiefly of a martial kind; and no solemnity or public business is carried on without such songs and dances.

The charge of the internal peace and order is likewise committed to the same council of their elders, which regulates whatever regards the external policy of the state. Their suits are few, and quickly decided, having neither property nor art enough to render them perplexed or tedious.

The loss of any of their people, whether by war or a natural death, is lamented by the whole town he belongs to. In such circumstances no business is taken in hand, however important, nor any rejoicings permitted, however interesting the occasion, until all the pious ceremonies due to the

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the dead are performed, which are always discharged with the greatest solemnity. The dead body is washed, anointed, and painted, so as in some measure to abate the horrors of death. Then the women lament the loss with the most bitter cries, and the most hideous howlings, intermixed with songs, which celebrate the great actions of the deceased, and those of his ancestors. The men mourn in a less extravagant manner. The whole village attends the body to the grave, which is then interred, habited in their most sumptuous ornaments. With the body of the deceased are placed his bow and arrows, with what he valued most in his life, and provisions for the long journey he is to take. Feasting attends this, as it does every solemnity.

No instances of regard to their deceased friends are so striking as what they call the Feast of the Dead, or the Feast of Souls. The day of this ceremony is appointed in the council of their chiefs, who give orders for every thing that may enable them to celebrate it with pomp and magnificence. The neighbouring people are invited to partake of the feast, and to be witnesses of the solemnity. At this time, all who have died since the last solemn feast of that kind are taken out of their graves; those who have

have been interred at the greatest distance from the villages are diligently sought after, and brought to this great rendezvous of sepulchral relicts.

The opening of these tombs displays one of the most striking scenes that can be conceived. This humiliating portrait of human misery, exhibited in so many images of death, wherein a thousand various shapes of horror are depicted, according to the different ravages that time has made, forms altogether a scene too indelicate to be here described. I know not which ought to affect us most, the horror of so striking a sight, or the tender piety and affection of those poor people towards their departed friends.

This strange festival is the most magnificent and solemn of any they have, not only on account of the great concourse of natives and strangers, and of the pompous re-interment they give to the dead, whom they dress in the finest skins they can get, after having exposed them for some time in this pomp, but for the games of all kinds which they celebrate upon the occasion, in the spirit of those, which the ancient Greeks and Romans celebrated upon similar occasions. In this manner do they endeavour to sooth the calamities of this life, by the honours they pay to the dead. Though

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among these savage nations this custom is impressed with strong marks of the ferocity of their nature; yet an honour to the dead, a tender feeling of their absence, and a revival of their memory, are some of the most excellent means of softening our rugged nature into humanity.

Though the women in America have generally the laborious part of œconomy upon themselves, yet they are far from being the slaves they appear, and are not at all subject to the great subordination, in which they are placed in countries where they seem to be more respected. On the contrary, they hold their councils, and have their share in all deliberations that concern the state; nor are they found inferior to the part they act. Polygamy is practised by some nations, but it is not general. In most places, they content themselves with one wife; but a divorce is admitted, and for the same causes that it was allowed among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans. No nation of the Americans is without a regular marriage, in which there are many ceremonies. Incontinent before marriage, after wedlock the chastity of their women is remarkable. The punishment of the adulteress, as well as that of the adulterer, is in the hands of the husband himself, and it is often severe, being inflicted

inflicted by him who is at once the party and the judge. Their marriages are not fruitful, seldom producing above two or three children; and from hence we may derive the principal cause of the depopulation of America.

The manner of their preparing for war, and their mode of carrying it on, seem peculiar to themselves. Almost the sole occupation of the American Indian is war, or such an exercise as qualifies him for it. His whole glory consists in this, and no man is at all considered until he has increased the strength of his country with a captive, or adorned his hat with the scalp of one of his enemies. When the ancients resolve upon war, they do not always declare what nation it is they are determined to attack, that the enemy, upon whom they really intend to fall, may be off their guard; and they sometimes even let whole years pass over without committing any act of hostility, that the vigilance of all may be unbent by the long continuance of the watch, and the uncertainty of the danger.

In the mean time, they are not idle at home. The principal captain summonses the youths of the town to which he belongs, the war-kettle is set on the fire, the war songs and dances commence, the

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hatchet is sent to the villages and allies of the same nation, and the most hideous howlings continue, without intermission, day and night, over the whole tract of country. The women add their cries to those of the men, lamenting those whom they have either lost in war or by natural death, and demanding their places to be supplied by their enemies.

The fury of the nation being thus raised to the greatest height, and all longing to embue their hands in blood, the war captain prepares the feast, which consists of dog's flesh. All that partake of this feast receive little billets, which are so many engagements they take to be faithful to each other, and obedient to their commander. None are forced to the war; but, when they have accepted this billet, they are looked upon as enlisted, and it is then death to recede. All the warriors in this assembly have their faces blackened with charcoal, intermixed with dashes and streaks of vermilion, which give them a most horrid appearance. Their hair is dressed up in an odd manner, with feathers of various kinds.

In this assembly, which is preparatory to their military expedition, the chief begins the war-song, which having continued for some time, he raises his voice to  
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the highest pitch, and turning off suddenly in a sort of prayer, he addresses himself to the god of war, whom they call Areskoni. "I invoke thee (says he) to be favourable to my enterprize! I invoke thy care of me and my family! I invoke ye likewise, all ye spirits and dæmons good and evil! all ye that are in the skies, or on the earth, or under the earth, to pour destruction on our enemies, and to return me and my companions safely to my country!" All the warriors join him in this prayer with shouts and acclamations. The captain renews his song, strikes his club against the stakes of the cottage, and begins the war-dance, accompanied with the shouts of all his companions, which continue as long as he dances.

On the day appointed for their departure, they take leave of their friends, and change their clothes, or what moveables they have, in token of friendship. Their wives and female relations go out before them, and attend at some distance from the town. The warriors march out all dressed in their finest apparel and most showy ornaments, regularly one after another, for they never march in rank. Their chief walks slowly on before them, singing the death-song, while the rest preserve the most profound silence. When they come up to the wo-

men,

men, they deliver to them all their finery, put on their worst clothes, and then proceed as their commander directs.

The Indians seldom engage in a war upon motives common to Europe: they have no other end but the glory of victory, or the benefit of their slaves, which it enables them to add to their nation, or sacrifice to their brutal fury; and it is very seldom, that they take any pains to give their wars even a colour of justice. They fall sometimes on one nation, and sometimes on another, and surprize some of their hunters, whom they scalp and bring home as prisoners. Their senators wink at this, or rather encourage it, as it tends to keep up the martial spirit of the people, enures them to watchfulness and hardships, and gives them an early taste for blood. The qualities of an Indian war are vigilance and attention, and to give and avoid a surprize; and patience and strength to endure the intolerable fatigues and hardships which always attend it.

They often enter a village, while the strength of the nation is employed in hunting, and massacre all the helpless old men, women, and children, or make prisoners of as many as they can manage, or have strength enough to be useful to their nation. They often cut off small parties of

men in their huntings; but when they discover an army of their enemies, their way is to throw themselves flat on their faces among the withered leaves, the colour of which their bodies are painted exactly to resemble. They generally let a part pass unmolested, and then, rising a little, they take aim, being excellent marksmen, and setting up a tremendous shout, which they call the war-cry, they pour a storm of musket bullets on the enemy, having long since laid aside the use of arrows. The party attacked returns the same cry. Every man in haste retires behind a tree, returns the fire of the adverse party, as soon as they raise themselves from the ground to give the second discharge.

Having fought some time in this manner, the party which thinks it has the advantage rushes out of its cover, with small axes in their hands, which they dart with great address and dexterity. They redouble their cry, intimidate their enemies with menaces, and encourage each other with a boastful display of their own brave actions. Thus, being come hand to hand, the contest is soon decided, and the conquerors satiate their savage fury with the most shocking insults and barbarities to the dead, biting their flesh, tearing their scalps from their heads, and wallowing in their blood, like the wild beasts of the forests.

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The fate of their prisoners is indeed miserable. During the greater part of their journey homewards they suffer no injury; but when they arrive at the territories of the conquering state, or at those of their allies, the people from every village meet them, and think they shew their attachment to their friends by the barbarous treatment of the unhappy victims; who on their arrival at their destined station, generally bring with them marks of the most cruel and merciless treatment.

The conquerors enter the town in triumph; the war-captain waits upon the head-men, and in a low voice gives them a circumstantial account of every particular of the expedition, of the damages the enemy has suffered, and his own loss in it. This being done, the public orator relates the whole to the people. Before they yield to the joy which the victory occasions, they lament the friends they have lost in the pursuit of it. The parties most nearly concerned are apparently afflicted with a deep and real sorrow; but, by one of those strange turns of the human mind, fashioned to any thing by custom, as if they were disciplined in their grief, upon the signal for rejoicing, in a moment the tears are wiped from their eyes, and they rush into an

vagance and phrenzy of joy for their victory. All this time, the fate of the prisoners remains undecided, until the old men meet, and determine concerning their distribution.

It is usual to offer a slave to each house that has lost a friend, giving the preference according to the greatness of the loss. The person who has taken the captive attends him to the door of the party's cottage, where he delivers him, and with him gives a belt of wampum, to shew that he has fulfilled the purpose of the expedition, in supplying the loss of a citizen. They for some time view the present that is made them, and according as they think him or her, for the sex matters not, proper or improper for the business of the family, or as they take a capricious liking or displeasure to the countenance of the victim, or in proportion to their natural barbarity, or their resentment for their losses, they decide whether they will receive him into the family, or sentence him to death. If they be received into the family, happy is their lot, as they are then accepted into the place of the father, son, or husband that is lost; and they have no other mark of their captivity, but that of not being suffered to return to their own country, to attempt which would be certain

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tain death. On the contrary, if they dislike the captive, they throw away the belt with indignation. Then it is no longer in the power of any one to save him, the nation is assembled as upon some great solemnity, a scaffold is raised, and the prisoner tied to the stake. He instantly begins his death-song, and prepares for the ensuing scene of cruelty with the most undaunted courage. On the other side, they prepare to put it to the utmost proof, with every torment that the mind of man ingenious in mischief can devise.

It would be too shocking for the ear of our youthful reader to be told what inhuman tortures are inflicted on him, till at last, one of the chiefs, out of compassion, or weary with cruelty, generally puts an end to his life with a club or a dagger. The body is then put into the kettle, and this barbarous employment is succeeded by a feast equally inhuman.

On this occasion, the women, forgetting the female nature, and transferring themselves into something worse than furies, act their parts, and even outdo the men in this scene of horror. The principal persons of the country set round the stake smoaking, and looking on without the least emotion. What is most extraordinary, the sufferer himself, in the little intervals

intervals of his torments, smoaks also, appears unconcerned, and converses with his torturers about indifferent matters. Indeed, during the whole time of his execution there seems a contest between him and them, which shall exceed, they in inflicting the most horrid pains, or he in enduring them with a firmness and constancy almost above human. Not a groan, not a sigh, not a distortion of countenance, escapes him; he possesses his mind entirely in the midst of his torments; he recounts his own exploits, informs them what cruelties he had inflicted upon their countrymen, and threatens them with the revenge that will attend his death; and though his reproaches exasperate them to a perfect state of madness, rage, and fury, he continues his reproaches even of their ignorance in the act of tormenting, pointing out himself more exquisite methods, and more sensible parts of the body to be afflicted.

We do not dwell upon these circumstances of cruelty, which so much degrade human nature, out of choice; but as all, who mention the customs of this people, have very particularly insisted upon their behaviour in this respect, and as it seems necessary, in order to give a true idea of their character, we do not choose wholly

to omit it. It serves to shew, in the strongest light, to what an inconceivable degree of barbarity the passions of men let loose will carry them. It will point out to us the advantages of a religion that teaches a compassion to our enemies, which is neither known nor practised in other religions; and it will make us more sensible, than some appear to be, of the value of commerce, the benefits of a civilized life, and the lights derived from literature, which, if they have abated the force of some of the natural virtues by the luxuries which attend them, have taken out likewise the sting of our national vices, and softened the ferocity of the human race, without enervating their courage. On the other hand, the constancy of the sufferers in this trying scene, shews the wonderful powers of an early institution, and a ferocious thirst of glory, which makes men imitate and exceed what philosophy, and even religion, do not produce.

Having thus taken a cursory review of the customs and manners of the original natives of North America, we shall now proceed to give an account of the first settlement of the British colonies, and shew from what small beginnings time has raised them to one immense republic, under the title of the United and Independent States  
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of America. In order to accomplish this matter, we shall give a general history of the late war, which ended in the loss of thirteen British American colonies. The different sieges and battles that took place during that period, we shall describe as copiously as our narrow limits will permit us.

## C H A P. II.

SEVERAL of the most zealous and eminent protestants, in the reign of Edward VI. opposed the popish ceremonies and habits, though otherwise united to their brethren in religious tenets. Hundreds of them fled into foreign parts to avoid persecutions, where they connected themselves with protestants of other nations, who were equally arduous for a reformation.

Upon the accession of Queen Elizabeth, in 1558, the refugees returned to England, loaded with experience and learning, but in the utmost distress and poverty. Those of the clergy, who could comply with the queen's establishment, were quickly preferred; but the rest, after being permitted to preach awhile, were suspended, and reduced to their former indigence.

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The clergy and laity, who wished for greater ecclesiastical purity, struggled hard for the abolishment of popish ceremonies and habits, or at least, leaving the use of them indifferent in divine service, by which, they obtained nothing but the honourable nick-name of PURITANS. Queen Elizabeth had enough of the blood of Henry the Eighth, to make her impatient of any opposition to her will, especially in matters of religion, in which she had an high opinion of her own knowledge; and, during her whole reign, she kept down the puritans with an uniform and inflexible severity. The merits, however, of their sufferings, the affected plainness of their dress, the gravity of their deportment, and the use of scripture phrases on the most ordinary occasions, and even their names, which had in them something striking and venerable, as being borrowed from the Old Testament, gained them a general esteem among sober people of ordinary understandings.

When King James came to the throne, he had a very fair opportunity of pacifying matters, or, at least, he might have left them in the condition he found them. On the contrary, he suffered them to be persecuted, but not destroyed; they were exasperated, and yet left powerful; and the

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then ministry, like those who lately lost us our colonies, exposed their own weakness, ignorance, and baseness, by an ill-timed severity.

In this state matters remained, until the accession of Charles the First, when they were far from being mended. This prince, endowed with some virtues, had very few amiable qualities. As grave as the puritans themselves, he could never engage the licentious part of the world in his favour; and that gravity being turned against the puritans, made him more odious to them. He gave himself up entirely to the church and churchmen, and he finished his ill-conduct, in this respect, by conferring the first ecclesiastical dignity of the kingdom, and a great sway in temporal affairs, upon Dr. Laud, who, hardly fit to direct a college, was entrusted with the government of an empire.

The puritans considered the most dreary realms, and the most unfrequented regions, where they could enjoy liberty of conscience, as superior to the most splendid palaces, where they were to be governed by Laud. In consequence of these disaffections, a little colony sailed from England, and established itself at a place called New Plymouth, on the continent of America. This happened in 1620.

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They were but few in number, they landed in a bad season, and were supplied only from their private funds. The winter was premature, and extremely cold. The country was every where covered with wood, and afforded very little for the refreshment of persons sickly with such a voyage, or even for the sustenance of an infant people. Nearly half of them perished by the scurvy, by want, and the severity of the climate; but those who survived, not dispirited with their losses, nor with the hardships they were still to endure, supported by the vigour which was then the character of Englishmen, and by the satisfaction of finding themselves out of the reach of the spiritual arm, were enabled to procure in this savage country a tolerable livelihood, and by degrees a comfortable subsistence for themselves and their families.

The people of New Plymouth, having cleared the way for other sufferers to settle in America, with less difficulty and danger than what they had experienced; the same of their plantation spreading through the western part of England, and the government in church and state growing every day more oppressive, the territory of the Massachusetts's Bay was purchased of the Plymouth council, in 1628, and a company

pany soon formed, who consulted on settling a plantation, to which non-conforming puritans might emigrate, in order to enjoy their own principles in full security.

In 1630, a large company arrived at Salem, consisting of more than fifteen hundred persons, from different counties in England. From the beginning of the colony, until the emigration ceased, in 1640, through a change of affairs in England, there arrived, in 298 vessels, about 21,200 settlers, men, women, and children, or four thousand families.

They did not, however, all confine themselves to this colony: several families removed to Connecticut River, by mutual agreement with their fellow emigrants, who remained behind. Plantations were formed at Hartford, Windsor, and Wethersfield. The inhabitants being soon after fully satisfied, that they were out of the Massachusetts's limits, and of course its jurisdiction, entered into a combination among themselves, became a body politic, without restraining the freedom of their civil government to the membership of their churches, and proceeded to the choice of magistrates and representatives.

Two large ships arrived at Massachusetts's Bay, in 1637, with passengers from London. Great pains were taken to prevail upon

upon them to remain in the colony; but they hoped, by removing to a considerable distance, to be out of the reach of a general governor, with whom the country was then threatened. They sent to their friends in Connecticut to purchase of the natives the lands lying between them and Hudson's River. They then laid the foundation of a flourishing colony, of which New Haven was the capital. Connecticut and New Haven continued two distinct colonies for many years. At length, the general court of Connecticut determined to prefer an address and petition to Charles the Second, professing their subjection and loyalty to his majesty, and soliciting a royal charter; and John Winthrop, Esq. who had been chosen governor, was appointed to negotiate the affair with the king. He succeeded, and a royal charter was obtained, constituting the two colonies forever one body corporate and politic.

Mr. Roger Williams, a pastor of the church of Salem, being banished from the Massachusetts, on account of some religious disputes, went to the Narraganset country, accompanied with twelve companions, and had land given him by the Indian Sachem Canonicus; of whom he afterwards purchased the large tract, lying between Pawtucket and Pawturat rivers,

(the great falls and the little falls, as the Indian name signifies) and stiled it *Providence*, from a sense of God's merciful providence to him in his distress.

The authority and power of Miantonomi, another sachem, and his uncle Canonicus, awed all the Indians round to assist him and his few associates. When the determinations of the Massachusetts's general court, occasioned by what they called antinomian disputes, banished many, and induced others to leave the colony, the heads of the party were entertained in a friendly manner by Mr. Williams, who advised them to seek a settlement on Rhode Island in the year 1638, and was very instrumental in procuring it of the Indian sachems.

New Hampshire and the Main were settled about the same time with the Massachusetts, by different proprietors, who had obtained patents, and whose views were to enrich themselves by the fishing trade at sea, and the beaver trade ashore.

The colony of New York demands our next attention. The Dutch had settled it, and named it the New Netherlands. Charles the Second resolved upon its conquest in 1664; and in March granted to his brother, the Duke of York, the region extending from the western banks of

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the Connecticut to the eastern shore of the Delaware, together with Long Island, conferring on him the civil and military powers of government. Col. Nichols was sent with four frigates and three hundred soldiers, to effect the business. The Dutch governor being unable to make resistance, the New Netherlands submitted to the English crown, in September, without any other change than of rulers. Few of the Dutch removed, and Nichols instantly entered upon the exercise of his power, as deputy-governor for the Duke of York, the proprietary.

About the same time, 1664, New Jersey, which was also taken from the Dutch, who were considered as having no right to any of their settlements in these parts of America, were included in the grant to the Duke of York. The Duke disposed of it to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, who, being sole proprietors, for the better settlement of it, agreed upon certain constitutions of government, so well liked, that the eastern parts were soon considerably peopled.

Virginia was the original name of all the English North American continental claims, given in honour to the virgin Queen Elizabeth. King James, being applied to, granted letters patent to a body of gentlemen, on



the 6th of April, 1606, with powers to divide themselves into two distinct companies, the one consisting of London adventurers, called the first, or southern colony of Virginia; the second, or northern colony, composed of merchants, belonging to Bristol, Plymouth, and Exeter. The territory granted to the first, or southern colony, was generally called *Virginia*, without any distinguishing epithet, and retained that name after the second, or northern colony, obtained the name of New England in 1614.

We come next to speak of Maryland. The first emigration to this part of America consisted of two hundred gentlemen of considerable fortune and rank, with their adherents, chiefly Roman Catholics, who hoped to enjoy liberty of conscience under a proprietary of their own profession. They sailed from England in November, and landed in Maryland the beginning of 1633. Gov. Calvert, brother to Lord Baltimore, very wisely and justly purchased, by presents of various goods, the rights of the Indians, and with their free consent took possession of their town, which he called St. Mary's. The country was settled with so much ease, and furnished with so many conveniences, that emigrants repaired thither in such numbers as soon to render

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render the colony populous and flourishing.

Carolina follows Maryland in the order of existence. A few adventurers emigrated from the Massachusetts, and settled round Cape Fear, about the time of the Restoration. They considered mere occupancy, with a transfer from the natives, without any grant from the king, as a good title to the lands they possessed. They deemed themselves entitled to the same civil privileges as those of the country from whence they had emigrated. For years they experienced the complicated miseries of want. They solicited the aid of their countrymen, and the general court of Massachusetts, with an attention and humanity which did it the greatest honour, ordered an extensive contribution for their relief.

The final settlement of the province was effected equally through the rapacity of the courtiers of Charles the Second, and his own facility in rewarding those, to whom he was greatly indebted, with a liberality that cost him little. The pretence, which had been used on former occasions, of a pious zeal for the propagation of the gospel among the Indians, was successively employed to procure a grant of the immense region, lying between the 36th de-

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gree of North latitude, and the river of St. Matheo, under the 31st degree. In March, 1663, this territory was erected into a province by the name of *Carolina*, and conferred on Lord Clarendon, the Duke of Albemarle, Lord Craven, Lord Berkeley, Lord Ashley, Sir George Carteret, Sir John Colleton, and Sir William Berkeley, as absolute lord proprietaries, for ever, saving the allegiance due to the crown.

Pennsylvania and the Delaware counties next demand our attention. Mr. William Penn, one of the joint purchasers of the western part of the Jerseys, having received the most exact information of the country to the westward of the Delaware, while engaged in the administration of the joint purchase, became desirous of acquiring a separate estate.

He presented a petition to Charles the Second in June, 1680, stating not only his relationship to the late admiral, but that he was deprived of a debt due from the crown, when the Exchequer was shut. He prayed for a grant of lands, lying to the northward of Maryland, and westward of the Delaware; and added, that by his interest, he should be able to settle a province, which might, in time, repay his claims. Having a prospect of success, he

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copied from the charter of Maryland the sketch of a patent, which in November was laid before the attorney-general for his opinion.

Penn had the same object in view as Lord Baltimore had, the guarding against the exertions of prerogative, which experience had taught both were very inconvenient. The attorney-general declared the clause of exemption from taxation illegal; and chief justice North being of the same opinion, and observing its tendency, added the saving of the authority of the English parliament; so that it was stipulated by the king, for himself and his successors, that "no custom or other contribution shall be laid on the inhabitants or their estates, unless by the consent of the proprietary, or governor and assembly, or by act of parliament in England."

The next year, 1681, the patent was granted, in consideration of "the merits of the father, and the good purposes of the son, in order to extend the English empire, and to promote useful commodities." It was provided by fit clauses, that the sovereignty of the king should be preserved, and that acts of parliament, concerning trade, navigation, and the customs, be duly observed. Penn was empowered to assemble the freemen, or their delegates,  
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in such form as he should think proper for raising money for the use of the colony, and for making useful laws, not contrary to those of England, or the rights of the kingdom. A duplicate of the acts of the assembly was to be transmitted, within five years, to the king in council, and the acts might be declared void within six months, if not approved.

It now remains only to give a concise account of the settlement of Georgia.

In 1732, a number of gentlemen considering the vast benefit that might arise from the tract of land, lying between the Savannah and the river Alatamaha, petitioned the king for a charter, which was accordingly granted in June. They meant, that the country should be made a bulwark for the southern colonies against the Spainards, and should give employment to numbers of people, who were burdensome at home to their friends and parishes.

Towards the end of August, Sir Gilbert Heathcote recommended, in the strongest terms, to the directors of the Bank, the interest of the colony. His speech had the desired effect, and the members of the court, after his example, contributed largely towards the undertaking, as did great numbers of the nobility, gentry, clergy and others; and the parliament granted 10,000*l*. By the beginning of  
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November, about one hundred and sixteen colonists presented themselves, most of them labouring people, and were furnished with working tools of all kinds, stores, and small arms.

Mr. Oglethorpe, one of the trustees, generously attended the first set of emigrants to Carolina, where they arrived in good health in January, 1733. The Carolinians made them a present of one hundred breeding cattle, besides hogs, and twenty barrels of rice; and furnished them with a party of horse, and with scout boats, by the help of which they reached the Savannah, where Mr. Oglethorpe, ten miles up the river, pitched upon a spot for a town, and in February the building of the first house commenced.

Mr. Oglethorpe was waited upon by a numerous deputation from the Lower Creek nation, with whom he concluded a treaty, and soon after set out for Charlestown on his return to England, bringing with him several chiefs and a war captain. Before the end of march, 1734, more emigrants, to the amount of six hundred, were either sent over by charity, or went at their own expence.

In October, the Indians embarked for their own country, having had an allowance, while in London, of twenty pounds a week,

a week, of which they spent little, as they commonly eat and drank at the table of persons of the highest distinction. They embarked at Gravesend, in a ship which carried over a number of Saltz-burghers, being German protestants, who, with others of their countrymen that followed, settled on the Savannah, a town they called Ebenezer, and which, by their habits of industry and sobriety, soon became considerable.

The Georgians made a surprising progress in clearing their lands, and building their houses; and, as an encouragement, the British parliament granted them a supply of 26,000*l.* which, with very great private donations, were expended upon strengthening the southern part of Georgia.

Thus have we given a succinct account of the first establishment of the British colonies in North America. By what unhappy means they at last became separated from the mother-country, will be clearly shewn in the subsequent part of this history.

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.*

Anno

1606 First settlement made at Virginia.

1620 Settlement at New Plymouth.

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- 1628 New Hampshire and the Main settled.
- 1628 Puritans purchase and settle Massachusetts Bay.
- 1633 Settlement at Maryland.
- 1635 Connecticut and Providence.
- 1637 New Haven settled.
- 1638 Settlement of Rhode Island.
- 1663 Carolina settled.
- 1664 New York and New Jersey.
- 1681 Pennsylvania and Delaware counties.
- 1733 Georgia settled.

C H A P. III.

**T**HE narrow limits prescribed to us in this epitome, will not permit us to enter into a copious detail of all the minute concerns of the colonies, which may be found in more voluminous works, and there read by those, who have leisure and inclination to pursue so dry a study. We shall therefore proceed to describe only events of some consequence.

News being received in the Massachusetts of war being declared against France and Spain, the general court, then sitting, made immediate provision for raising forces for Anapolis in Nova Scotia.

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Towards the end of the month of April, 1745, Commodore Warren arrived from the West Indies, with a sixty-gun ship, and two of forty. He was soon after joined by another of forty, which had reached Canso a short time before. The men of war sailed immediately to cruise before Louisbourg. The forces soon followed, and landed at Chapeaurouge Bay the last day of April. The transports were discovered from the town early in the morning, which gave the inhabitants the first knowledge of the design.

The second day after landing, four hundred men marched round, behind the hills, to the north-east harbour, where they got about midnight, and set fire to all the dwellings and storehouses, till they came within a mile of the grand battery. The clouds of thick smoke, proceeding from the pitch, tar, and other combustibles, prevented the garrison's discovering the enemy, though they were but at a short distance.

They expected the body of the army upon them, and therefore deserted the fort, having thrown their powder into a well; but the cannon and shot were left, which proved of great service to the besiegers. The army had near two miles to transport their cannon, mortars, &c. through a mo-

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rafts, which required great labour to accomplish. The men were yoked together, and, during the night, made great advances.

While the forces were busily employed on shore, the men of war, and other vessels were cruising off the harbour, as often as the weather would permit. On the 18th of May, they captured a French sixty-four gun ship, having 560 men on board, and stores of all sorts for the garrison.

It was given out, that an attack would be made by sea with the ships, on the eighteenth, while the army did the like by land. Whether a general storm was really intended or not, the French appeared to expect it, from the preparations making on board the men of war, and seemed not inclined to attempt to withstand it.

On the fifteenth, a flag of truce was sent to the general, desiring a cessation of hostilities, that they might consider of articles for a capitulation. Time was allowed, but their articles were rejected by the general and commodore, and others offered, which were accepted by the French, and hostages given on both sides. The town was in consequence delivered up on the seventeenth. As this was a time, when vessels were expected from all parts at Louisbourg, the French flag was kept flying as a decoy. Two East-Indiamen, and one South-sea ship, of the value of 600,000l. sterling, were taken

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by the squadron, at the mouth of the harbour, into which they sailed as usual, not knowing that the place had been taken by the English.

The French having been very troublesome in the back settlements of our colonies, it was concluded to take effectual methods to drive them from the Ohio. The reduction of Niagara, Crown Point, and their forts in Nova Scotia, was also resolved on. General Braddock was accordingly sent from Ireland to Virginia, with two regiments of foot; and on his arrival, when joined by the rest of the forces destined for that service, he found himself at the head of 2200 men. He had bravery, but wanted other qualifications to render him fit for the service to which he was appointed. The severity of his discipline made him unpopular among the regulars, and his haughtiness deprived him of the esteem of the Americans. His pride disgusted the Indians, and led him to despise the country militia, and to slight the advice of the Virginian officers.

Colonel Washington earnestly begged of him, when the army was marching for fort Du Quesne, to admit of his going before, and scouring the woods with his rangers, which was contemptuously refused. The general had been cautioned by the Duke of Cumberland to guard against a surprise, and yet he pushed on heedlessly with the first division, consisting of 1400 men, till he fell

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into an ambuscade of 400, chiefly Indians, by whom he was defeated and mortally wounded, on the ninth of July, 1755.

The regulars were put into the greatest panic, and fled in the utmost confusion; but the militia had been used to Indian fighting, and were not so terrified. The general had disdainfully turned them into the rear, where they continued in a body unbroken, and served under Colonel Washington as a most useful rear-guard, which covered the retreat of the regulars, and prevented their being entirely cut to pieces.

Previous to this, and agreeable to the views of the British ministry, the Massachusetts assembly raised a body of troops, which were sent to Nova Scotia, to assist Lieutenant Governor Lawrence in driving the French from their several encroachments within that province.

The expedition against Niagara was entrusted to Governor Shirley, but failed through various causes.

Sir William, then Colonel, Johnson, was appointed to go against Crown Point. The delays, slowness, and deficiency of preparation, prevented the several colonies joining their troops till about August. In the mean time, the active enemy had transported forces from France to Canada, marched them down to meet the provincials, and attacked them; but, meeting with a repulse, lost six hundred

men, besides having their general Baron Dieskau wounded and made prisoner.

The next year, the Massachusetts raised a great armament to go against Crown Point; but Lord Loudon, on his arrival, did not think it proper that the forces should proceed, owing to a temporary misunderstanding between his Lordship and the general court.

In the year 1758, happily for the British nation, the great Mr. Pitt was placed at the head of the ministry, when the face of affairs was soon changed, the war was prosecuted with unexampled success, and the enemy was at length driven out of America.

Mr. Israel Mauduit, the Massachusetts agent, in 1763, gave early notice of the ministerial intentions to tax the colonies; but the general-court not being called together till the latter end of the year, instructions to the agent, though solicited by him, could not be sent in proper time.

The next year however, 1764, the house of representatives came to the following resolutions: "That the sole right of giving and granting the money of the people of that province, was vested in them as their legal representatives; and that the imposition of duties and taxes by the parliament of Great Britain, upon a people who are not represented in the House of Commons, is absolutely irreconcilable with their rights."—  
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of another without his consent; upon which original principle, the right of representation in the same body, which exercises the power of making laws for levying taxes, one of the main pillars of the British constitution, is evidently founded."

These resolutions were occasioned by intelligence of what had been done in the British House of Commons. It had been there debated in March, whether they had a *right* to tax the Americans, they not being represented, and determined unanimously in the affirmative. Not a single person present ventured to controvert the *right*.

After various propositions for taxing the colonies, Mr. Grenville's intended stamp act was communicated to the American agents. Many of them did not oppose it, half their number being placemen or dependents on the ministry. Mr. Joseph Sherwood, an honest quaker, agent for Rhode Island, refused his consent to America's being taxed by a British parliament. Mr. Mauduit, the Massachusetts agent, favoured the raising of the wanted money by a stamp duty, as it would occasion less expence of officers, and would include the West-India islands. The scheme, however, was postponed, and the agents authorised to inform the American assemblies, that they were at liberty to suggest any other ways of raising monies, and that Mr. Grenville was ready to receive proposals for any

other tax, that might be equivalent in its produce to the stamp-tax. The colonies seemed to consider it as an affront, rather than as a compliment. The minister would not be content with any thing short of a certain specific sum, and proper funds for the payment of it. Had not the sums been answerable to his wishes, he would have rejected them; and he would scarcely have been satisfied with less than 300,000*l.* per annum, which was judged absolutely necessary to defray the whole expence of the army proposed for the defence of America.

No satisfactory proposals being made on the side of the Americans, Mr. Grenville adhered to his purpose of bringing forward the stamp-bill, though repeatedly pressed by some of his friends to desist. Richard Jackson, Esq. had been chosen agent for the Massachusetts, who, with Mr. Franklin, and others, lately come from Philadelphia, waited on Mr. Grenville, in February, 1765, to remonstrate against the stamp-bill, and to propose, that, in case any tax must be laid upon America, the several colonies might be permitted to lay the tax themselves. Mr. Grenville, however, adhered to his own opinions, and said, that he had pledged his word for offering the stamp-bill to the house, and that the house would hear their objections.

The bill was accordingly brought in, and in March, the same year, received the royal  
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assent. The framers of the stamp-act flattered themselves, that the confusion which would arise from the disuse of writings, would compel the colonies to use stamp-paper, and therefore to pay the taxes imposed. Thus they were led to pronounce it to be a law which would execute itself.

Mr. Grenville, however, was not without his apprehensions, that it might occasion disorders; to prevent or suppress which, he projected another bill, which was brought in the same sessions, whereby it was made lawful for military officers in the colonies to quarter their soldiers in private houses. This seemed intended to awe the people into a compliance with the other act. Great opposition being made to it, as under such a power in the army, no one could look on his house as his own, that part of the bill was dropt; but there still remained a clause, when it passed into a law, to oblige the several assemblies to provide quarters for the soldiers, and to furnish them with firing, bedding, candles, small beer, rum, and sundry other articles, at the expence of the several provinces. This clause continued in force after the stamp-act was repealed.

These proceedings of the mother-country gave rise to great disturbances in America. Some persons of consequence at Boston, to manifest their abhorrence and detestation of a party in England, who they supposed were  
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endeavouring to subvert the British constitution, to enslave the colonies, and to alienate the affections of his majesty's most faithful subjects in America, early in the morning of the 14th of August, hung upon the limb of a large dead elm, near the entrance of Boston, in one of the most public streets, two effigies. One of them, as appeared by the labels affixed thereto, was intended to represent the stamp-officer; the other was a jack-boot, with a head and horns peeping out of the top.

The report of this novelty drew great numbers from every part of the town and the neighbouring country. This affair was left to take its own course, so that an enthusiastic spirit diffused itself into the minds of the spectators. In the evening, the figures were cut down, and carried in funeral procession, the populace shouting, *Liberty and property for ever! No stamps, &c.*

They then went to a new building, erected by Mr. Oliver, which they pulled down, falsely supposing it to be designed for the stamp-office. As soon as they approached Mr. Oliver's house, they beheaded the effigy, at the same time breaking all his windows, and demolished his gardens, fences, barns, and every thing else that came in their way.

The next day, Mr. Oliver, fearful of what might happen, declared that he had written to England and resigned. The mob assembled

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bled again at night; and, after some expressions of joy for the resignation, proceeded to the lieutenant governor's, Mr. Hutchinson's house, which they besieged for an hour, but in vain; insisting repeatedly upon knowing, whether he had not written in favour of the stamp-act.

These disorders grew every day more enormous and alarming. Mobs once raised, soon become ungovernable by new and large accessions, and extend their intentions far beyond those of the original instigators. Crafty men may intermix with them, when they are much heated, and direct their operations very differently from what was at first designed.

People in England were differently affected by the disturbances in the colonies. Some were for supporting the authority of parliament at all events, and for enforcing the stamp-act, if needful, with the point of the sword; while others were for quieting the colonies by the repeal of it. Happily for them, Mr. Grenville and his party were thrown out of place, and were succeeded by the Marquis of Rockingham, when, on the 22d of February, 1766, this obnoxious act was repealed.

In May, 1767, Mr. Charles Townsend, then chancellor of the Exchequer, moved the House of Commons for leave to bring in bills for granting a duty upon paper, glass, painters colours, &c. in the British American colonies;

nies; for settling salaries on the governors, judges, &c. in North America; and for taking off the duties on teas exported to America, and granting a duty of three-pence a pound on the importation in America. Two bills were at length framed, and in June and July received the royal assent.

These acts occasioned fresh disturbances in America, where matters were carried to a much greater height than before. In consequence of this, Lord Hillsborough wrote to General Gage, in June, 1768, to send troops to Boston, in order to preserve the peace of that town.

The introduction of troops into Boston was attended with very serious consequences. The inhabitants became exceedingly riotous, and some of the rabble pushed their ill conduct so far, as to oblige the soldiers to fire on them in their own defence. This happened on the 5th of March, 1770, when three persons were killed, five dangerously wounded, and a few slightly.

This was far from removing the evil, and only tended to widen the breach. Under the notion of zeal for liberty, the rabble ran into the most excessive licentiousness, and were every where guilty of the most lawless, unjust, and tyrannical proceedings, pulling down houses, destroying the property of every one that had fallen under their displeasure,

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Let us now turn our attention to see what was doing, in the mean time, at home. The supporting the authority of parliament was the only cause assigned by the minister himself for retaining the tea-duty, at the very time when he acknowledged it to be as anti-commercial a tax, as any of those that had been repealed upon that principle.

The East-India company, feeling the bad effects of the colonial smuggling trade, in the large quantities of tea, which remained in their warehouses unfold, requested the repeal of the three-pence per pound in America, and offered that, on its being complied with, government should retain six-pence in the pound on the exportation. Thus the company presented the happiest opportunity that could have been offered for honourably removing the cause of difference with America. This afforded an opening for doing justice, without infringing the claims on either side. The minister was requested and entreated, by a gentleman of great weight in the company, and a member of parliament, to embrace the opportunity; but it was obstinately rejected.

New contrivances were set on foot to introduce the tea, attended with the three-penny duty, into all the colonies. Various intrigues and solicitations were used to induce the East-India

India company to undertake this rash and foolish business. It was protested against, as contrary to the principle of the company's monopoly; but the power of the ministry prevailed, and the insignificant three-penny duty on tea was doomed to be the fatal bone of contention between Great Britain and her colonies. The company at last adopted the system, and became their own factors. They sent 600 chests of tea to Philadelphia, the like quantity to New York and Boston, besides what was consigned to other places. Several ships were also freighted for different colonies, and agents appointed for the disposal of the commodity.

In the mean time, the colonists, who well knew what had passed in the mother country, were concerting measures to counteract the views of the British ministry. Soon after the arrival of the tea-ships at Boston, a number of persons, chiefly masters of vessels and ship-builders from the north end of the town, about seventeen in number, dressed as Indians, went on board the ships, and in about two hours hoisted out of them, and broke open 342 chests of tea, the contents of which they emptied into the sea. They were not in the least molested; for the multitude of spectators on the wharf served as a covering party. The whole business was conducted with very little tumult, and no damage was done to the vessels or any other property.

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When the business was finished, the people returned quietly to their own towns and habitations.

These and other decisive proceedings of the Bostonians, induced the British ministry to bring in a bill into parliament, "for the immediate removal of the officers concerned in the collection of the customs at Boston, and to discontinue the landing and discharging, lading and shipping of goods, wares, and merchandises, at Boston, or within the harbour thereof." On the 31st of March, 1774, the bill received the royal assent.

Other bills were passed by the British parliament, brought in by Lord North, all tending to punish the Americans, and the Bostonians in particular, for their refractory behaviour. Petitions were sent over from America, and several of the members of both houses reprobated these severe and dangerous proceedings; but no regard was paid either to the petitions, or to the remonstrances of the minority in both houses. The then ministry, at the head of which was Lord North, were determined to accept from the Americans of nothing short of absolute and implicit obedience to the laws of taxation. On the other hand, the people of Massachusetts Bay, supported and spurred on by the other colonies, were determined not to submit, and prepared to repel force by force. They collected



lected all the arms they could, and spent much of their time in the exercise of them.

These proceedings of the people, and their manifest disposition to resistance, alarmed the general, who thought it necessary, for the safety of the troops, as well as to secure the important post of Boston, to fortify the entrance at the neck, which afforded the only communication, except by water, between the town and the continent.

In England, petitions were presented from the merchants of London, and almost all the trading towns in the kingdom; and Mr. Bollen, Dr. Franklin, and Mr. Lee, also presented petitions from the American congress; but government treated them with indifference and contempt.

Lord Chatham persevered in the prosecution of his conciliatory scheme with America, and accordingly brought into the House of Lords the outlines of a bill, which he hoped would answer that salutary purpose; but the ministry rejected it. At the same time, Lord North gave a sketch of the measures he intended to pursue, which were to send a greater force to America, and to bring in a temporary act to put a stop to all the foreign trade of the different colonies of New England, particularly their fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, till they returned to their duty.

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While matters were thus going on at home, General Gage, at Boston, received intelligence that cannon and carriages were deposited in the neighbourhood of Salem. He accordingly sent a body of troops from the castle to seize them; but the Americans found time to get them away, and the troops returned without effecting any thing.

A skirmish having happened at Lexington, between the king's troops and a party of the militia, General Gage no sooner received this intelligence, than he detached Lord Percy to Concord, with sixteen companies of foot, and a number of marines, 900 men in the whole, and two pieces of cannon, to support Colonel Smith.

The junction of the brigade under Lord Percy, with the detachment under Colonel Smith, gave the last a breathing time, especially as they now had cannon, which awed the provincials from pressing upon the rear in a direct line; but the whole force did not venture to halt long, as the minute men and militia were every where collecting, in order to cut off their retreat to Boston. They soon renewed their march, constant skirmishing succeeded, and a continual fire, though often irregular and scattering on their side, as well as on the part of the provincials. The close firing from behind the walls, by good marksmen, for such were almost all the provincials, put the troops into no small

confusion, and made it so dangerous for the officers, that they were more attentive to their safety than common. The regulars, when near Cambridge, were upon the point of taking a wrong road, which would have led them into the most imminent danger; but were prevented by the direction of a young gentleman residing at the college. They made good their retreat a little after sun-set over Charles-town neck to Bunker's-hill, but spent and worn down by the excessive fatigues they had undergone, having marched that day between thirty and forty miles. Here they remained secure till the next day, when they crossed at Charles-town ferry and returned to Boston. In this skirmish, the regulars had 65 killed, 180 wounded, and 28 made prisoners. The provincials had 50 men killed, 34 wounded, and four missing.

Let us now return to the mother country, where the restraining and fishery bill met with great opposition in both houses of parliament. The fishery bill had scarcely cleared the House of Commons, when Lord North brought in another, to restrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British islands in the West-Indies, under certain conditions and limitations.

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out against the Americans Generals Howe, Clinton, and Burgoyne, who left England on the 28th of May; and, in about a week afterwards, transports laden with troops sailed from Cork, to reinforce General Gage.

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.*

- 1745 Expedition against Louisbourg.  
 1755 General Braddock defeated.  
 1764 Massachusetts assembly declare against parliamentary taxes.  
 1765 The stamp-act passed.—Riots at Boston on account of that act.  
 1766 The stamp-act repealed.  
 1767 Mr. Charles Townsend taxes the colonies again.  
 1768 Troops ordered to Boston.  
 1770 Soldiers at Boston fire on the inhabitants.  
 1773 The East-India company empowered to export their own teas.—The tea thrown into the sea at Boston.  
 1774 The Massachusetts people prepare to defend their rights by arms.—General Gage fortifies the entrance into Boston.  
 1775 General Gage sends troops to Salem.—Skirmishes at Concord and Lexington.—The restraining bills passed in England.—The Generals Howe, Clinton, and Burgoyne, sail for Boston.

## C H A P. IV.

**T**HE necessity of securing Ticonderoga was early attended to by many in New England. General Gage had set the example of attempting to seize upon military stores, and by so doing had commenced hostilities, so that retaliation appeared warrantable.

Colonel Allen was at Castleton, with about 270 men; 230 of which were *Green Mountain Boys*, so called from their residing within the limits of the Green Mountains, the Hampshire Grants being so denominated from the range of green mountains that run through them. Sentinels were placed immediately on all the roads, to prevent any intelligence being carried to Ticonderoga.

Colonel Arnold, who now joined Colonel Allen, reported, that there were at Ticonderoga, 80 pieces of heavy cannon, 20 of brass, from four to eighteen pounders, ten or a dozen mortars, a number of small arms, and considerable stores; that the fort was in a ruinous condition, and, as he supposed, garrisoned by about forty men. It was then settled, that Colonel Allen should have the supreme command, and Colonel Arnold was to be his assistant.

Colonel Allen, with his 230 Green Mountain Boys, arrived at Lake Champlain, opposite

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opposite to Ticonderoga, on the ninth of May, at night. Boats were with difficulty procured, when he and Colonel Arnold crossed over with 83 men, and landed near the garrison. The two colonels advanced along side each other, and entered the port, leading to the fort, in the grey of the morning. A sentry snapped his fusée at Colonel Allen, and then retreated through the covered way to the parade. The main body of the Americans then followed, and drew up. Capt. de la Place, the commander, was surprised in bed. Thus was the place taken without any bloodshed.

On the 15th of June, 1775, the congress proceeded to choose by ballot a general to command all the continental forces, and George Washington, Esq. was unanimously elected.

The next day, orders were issued by the Americans, for a detachment of a thousand men, to march at evening, and entrench upon Bunker's-hill. By some mistake, Breed's hill, high and large like the other, but situated on the furthest part of the peninsula, next to Boston, was marked out for the intrenchment instead of Bunker's. The provincials proceeded therefore to Breed's hill; but were prevented going to work till near twelve o'clock at night, when they pursued their business with the utmost diligence and alacrity; so that, by the dawn of the day, they had thrown up a  
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small redoubt, about eight rods square. Such was the extraordinary silence that reigned among them, that they were not heard by the British on board their vessels in the neighbouring waters. The sight of the works was the first notice that the Lively man of war had of them, when the captain began firing upon them about four in the morning.

The guns called the town of Boston, the camp, and the fleet, to behold a novelty, which was little expected. The prospect obliged the British generals to alter the plan they intended to have pursued the next day: They grew weary of being cooped up in Boston, and had resolved upon making themselves masters of Dorchester heights; but the present provincial movement prevented the expedition. They were now called to attempt possessing themselves of Breed's hill, on which the provincials continued working, notwithstanding a heavy fire from the enemy's ships, a number of floating batteries, and a fortification upon Cop's-hill in Boston, directly opposite to the little American redoubt. An incessant shower of shot and bombs was poured by the batteries upon the American works, and yet but one man was killed.

The Americans continued labouring indefatigably till they had thrown up a small breast-work, extending from the east side of the redoubt to the bottom of the hill; but they

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they were prevented completing it from the intolerable fire of the enemy. By some unaccountable error, the detachment, which had been working for hours, was neither relieved, nor supplied with refreshments, but were left to engage under these disadvantages.

Between twelve and one o'clock, and the day exceedingly hot, a number of boats and barges, filled with regular troops from Boston, approached Charlestown, when the men were landed at Moreton's Point. They consisted of four battalions, two companies of grenadiers, and ten of light infantry, with a proportion of field artillery; but, by some oversight, their spare cartridges were much too big for them: so that, when the Americans were at length forced from their lines, there was not a round of artillery cartridges remaining.

Major Gen. Howe and Brigadier Gen. Pigot had the command. The troops formed, and remained in that position, till joined by a second detachment of light infantry and grenadier companies, a battalion of the land forces, and a battalion of marines, amounting in the whole to about 3000 men. The Generals Clinton and Burgoyne took their stand upon Cop's-hill, to observe and contemplate the bloody and destructive operations that were now commencing. The regulars formed in two lines, and advanced deliberately,



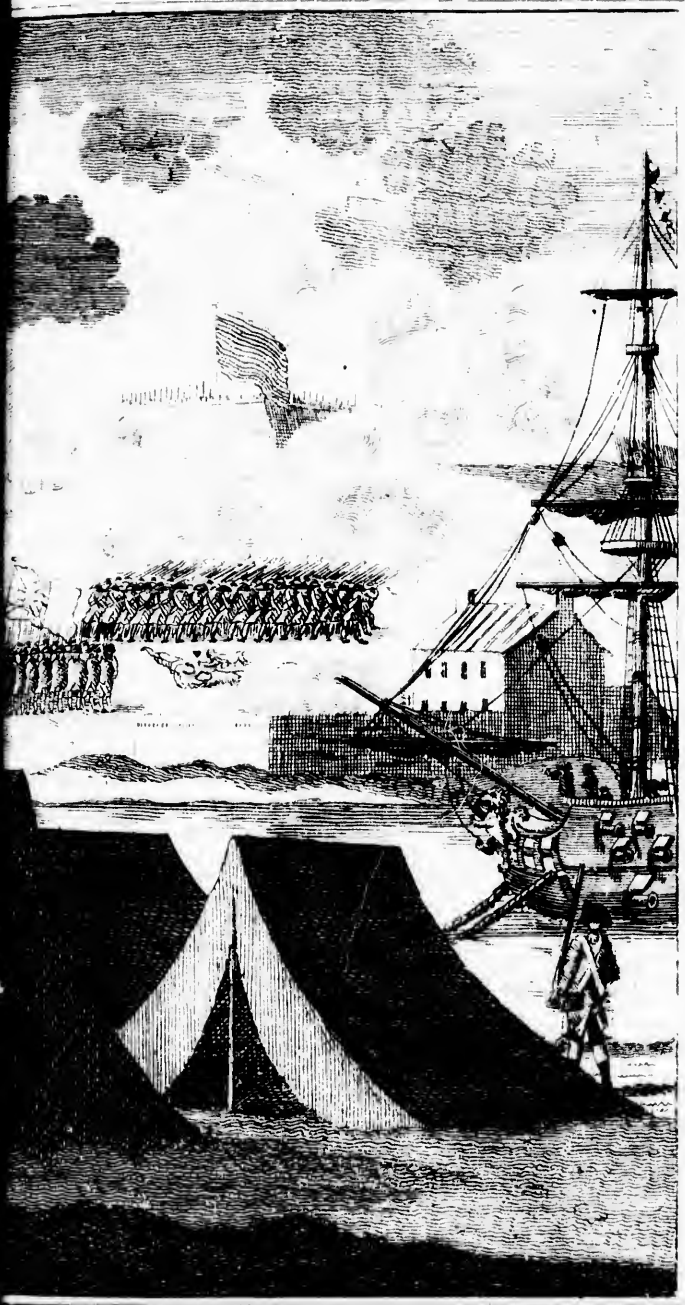
rately, frequently halting to give time for the artillery to fire, which was not well served. The light infantry were directed to force the left point of the breast-work, and to take the American line in flank. The grenadiers advanced to attack in front, supported by two battalions, while the left, under Gen. Pigot, inclined to the right of the American line. One or two of the continental regiments had been posted in Charlestown, but afterwards removed, to prevent their being cut off by a sudden attack; so that the British were not in the least hurt by the musquetry from thence.

General Gage had for some time resolved upon burning the town, whenever any works were raised by the Americans upon the hills belonging to it: and while the British were advancing nearer to the attack, orders came to Cop's-hill for executing the resolution. Soon after a carcass was discharged, which set fire to an old house near the ferry way; the fire instantly spread, and most of the place was soon in flames; while the houses at the eastern end of Charlestown were set on fire by men who landed from the boats.

The regulars derived no advantage from the smoke of the conflagration, for the wind suddenly shifting, carried it another way, so that it could not cover them in their approach. The provincials had not a rifleman among them, not one being yet arrived from

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the southward; nor had they any other guns than common muskets, and even those were not furnished with bayonets. However, they were almost all marksmen, being accustomed to sporting of one kind or other from their youth. A number of Massachusetts people were in the redoubt, and the part of the breast-work nearest it. The left of the breast-work, and the open ground stretching beyond its point to the water-side, through which there was not an opportunity of carrying the work, was occupied partly by the Massachusetts forces, and partly by the people of Connecticut.

The British moved on slowly to the attack, instead of using a quick step; which gave the provincials the advantage of taking surer and cooler aim. These reserved their fire, till the regulars came within ten or twelve rods, when they began a furious discharge of small arms, which stopped the regulars, who kept up the firing without advancing. The discharge from the Americans was so incessant, and did such execution, that the regulars retreated in disorder, and with great precipitation towards the place of landing. Their officers used every effort to make them return to the charge, with which they at length complied; but the Americans again reserved their fire till the regulars came within five or six rods, when the enemy was a second time put to flight.

General

General Howe and the officers redoubled their exertions; and General Clinton, perceiving how the army was staggered, passed over, without waiting for orders, and joined them in time to be of service. The Americans being in want of powder, sent for a supply, but could procure none; for there was but a barrel and a half in the magazine. This deficiency disabled them from making the same defence as before; while the British reaped a further advantage by bringing some cannon to bear, so as to rake the inside of the breast-work from end to end. The regular army now made a decisive push, and the fire from the ships and batteries was redoubled. The provincials were of necessity ordered to retreat.

It was feared by the Americans, that the British troops would push the advantage they had gained, and march immediately to the head quarters at Cambridge, about two miles distant, and in no state of defence. But they advanced no further than to Bunker's-hill, where they threw up works for their own security. The provincials did the same upon Prospect-hill, in front of them, about half way to Cambridge.

The loss of the British, according to General Gage, amounted to 1054, of whom 226 were killed; of these 19 were commissioned officers, including a lieutenant colonel, two majors, and seven captains. Seventy other officers

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officers were wounded. Among those more generally regretted, were Lieutenant Colonel Abercromby, and Major Pitcairn.

The provincials had 139 killed, 278 wounded, and 36 were missing, in all 453.

In the opinion of many, General Howe was chargeable with a capital error in landing and attacking as he did. It might originate from too great a confidence in the forces he commanded, and in too contemptuous an opinion of the enemy he had to encounter. He certainly might have entrapped the provincials, by landing on the narrowest part of Charlestown neck, under the fire of the floating batteries and ships of war. Here he might have stationed and fortified his army, and kept up an open communication with Boston by a water-carriage, which he would have commanded through the aid of the navy, on each side of the peninsula. Had he made this manœuvre, the provincials must have made a rapid retreat from Breed's-hill, to escape having his troops in their rear, and being enclosed. It was said, that General Clinton proposed it. The rejection of that proposal greatly weakened the British army, and probably prevented the ruin of the Americans.

In July, the congress received a letter from the convention of Georgia, setting forth, that the colony had acceded to the general

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association, and appointed delegates to attend the congress.

The accession of Georgia to the colonies occasioned their being afterwards called *The Thirteen United Colonies*. The first hostilities that happened in this part between the opposite parties, commenced about the middle of November, when a number of royalists attacked the Americans, and obliged them, after three days, to surrender a fort they had taken possession of, in which they expected to make an effectual resistance.

In the month of November, the New York convention having resolved upon the removal of the cannon from the battery of the city, Captain Sears was appointed to the business. Captain Vandeput, of the *Asia* man of war, was privately informed of the design, and prepared to oppose its execution. Learning when it was to be attempted, he appointed a boat to watch the motion of the people assembled for the purpose about the dead of night. The sailors in the boat giving the signal, with a flash of powder, of what was going forwards, the persons on shore mistook it for an attempt to fire a musket at them, and immediately aimed a volley of shot at the boat, by which a man was killed. Captain Vandeput soon after commenced a firing from the *Asia* with grape shot, swivel shot, 18 and 24 pounders, without killing a single person, and wounded

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only three, two slightly, the other lost the calf of his leg. He then ceased for a considerable time, supposing that the people had desisted from their purpose, while they were only changing their mode of operation.

Capt. Sears provided a deceiving party, intended to draw the Asia's fire from the line of the working party. He sent the former behind a breast-work, by which they were secured by dodging down upon observing the flash of the Asia's guns. When all was in readiness, they huzzaed, and sung out their notes as though tugging in unison, and fired from the walls; while the working party silently got off twenty-one eighteen pounders, with carriages, empty cartridges, rammers, &c.

Upon hearing the noise, and seeing the fire of the musketry, the captain ordered the Asia to fire a whole broadside towards that part of the fort, where the deceiving party had secured themselves, without intending any particular injury to the city. However, some of the shot flew into the city, and did damage.

This affair happened at a very late hour, between twelve and two, and threw the citizens into the utmost consternation. The distress of the New Yorkers was very much encreased by a painful apprehension, that Capt. Vandeput would renew his firing upon the city. A removal of men, women, children,



dren, and goods instantly commenced, and continued for some time. Matters were however so far adjusted, as to quiet the apprehensions of the people, in reference to their suffering further from the fire of the Asia. To prevent it, the convention permitted Abraham Lott, Esq. to supply all his majesty's ships, stationed at New York, with all necessaries, as well fresh as salted, for the use of those ships.

In the month of November, the general assembly of Rhode Island passed an act for the capital punishment of persons, who should be found guilty of holding a traitorous correspondence with the ministry of Great Britain, or any of their officers or agents, or of supplying the ministerial army or navy, employed against the United Colonies, with provisions, arms, &c. or of acting as pilots on board any of their vessels. They also passed an act for sequestering the estates of several persons, whom they considered as avowed enemies to the liberties of America.

On the night of the 26th of August, about 2000 American troops entrenched on Plow-ed-hill, within point blank shot of the British on Bunker's-hill; and notwithstanding a continual fire almost all the day following, they had only two killed and two wounded. The British finding that their firing did not answer, relaxed, and after a while desisted

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entirely, and the Americans remained quiet in their new post.

In the beginning of September, General Washington received a very acceptable remittance of 7000 pounds weight of powder, which had been very scarce in the American army.

Gen. Washington, having received pleasing accounts from Canada, being assured that neither Indians nor Canadians could be prevailed upon to act against the Americans, concerted the plan of detaching a body of troops from the head quarters, across the country to Quebec. He communicated the same to Gen. Schuyler, who approved it, and all things were got in readiness. They set out on the expedition on the 13th of September, under the command of Col. Arnold, assisted by the Colonels Green and Enos, and Majors Megis and Bigelow, the whole force amounting to about eleven hundred men.

On the 18th of October, Capt. Morvat destroyed 139 houses, 278 stores and other buildings, the far greater and better part of the town of Falmouth, in the northern part of the Massachusetts. The inhabitants, in compliance with a resolve of the provincial congress, to prevent tories carrying out their effects, gave some violent obstruction to the loading of a mast ship, which drew upon them the indignation of the British admiral.

In the mean time, Gen. Montgomery was sent forward to Ticonderoga with a body of troops; and being arrived at the Isle aux Noix, he drew up a declaration, which he sent among the Canadians by Col. Allen and Major Brown, assuring them, that the army was designed only against the English garisons, and not against the country, their liberties, or religion.

Col. Allen and Major Brown being on their return, after executing the commission, with which the general had entrusted them, the latter advised Col. Allen to halt, and proposed, that the colonel should return to Longueil, procure canoes and cross the river St. Lawrence, a little north of Montreal, while he, the major, crossed a little to the south of the town, with near 200 men, as he had boats sufficient. The plan was approved, and Col. Allen passed the river in the night. The major, by some means, failed on his part, and Col. Allen found himself, the next morning, in a critical situation, but concluded on defending himself. Gen. Carleton, learning how weak Col. Allen was, marched out against him with about forty regulars, together with Canadians, English, and Indians, amounting to some hundreds. The colonel defended himself with much bravery; but being deserted by several, chiefly Canadians, and having had fifteen of his men killed, was under the ne-

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cessity of surrendering with thirty-one effectives and seven wounded. He was directly put in irons.

On the 4th of October, a party of Canadians, who had joined and greatly assisted the besiegers, entrenched themselves on the east side of the lake, on which the enemy sent an armed sloop with troops to drive them away; but the Canadians attacked the sloop with vigour, killed a number of the men, and obliged her to return to St. John's in a shattered condition.

On the 7th, the main body of the army decamped from the south, and marched to the north side of the fort. In the evening, they began to throw up a breast-work, in order to erect a battery of cannon and mortars. The continental troops brought such a spirit of liberty into the field, and thought so freely for themselves, that they would not bear either subordination or discipline. The generals could not in truth direct their operations, and would not have stayed an hour at their head, had they not feared that the example would be too generally followed, and so have injured the public service. There was a great want of powder, which, with the disorderly behaviour of the troops, was a damp to the hope of terminating the siege successfully. The prospect, however, soon brightened, for the Americans planned an attack upon Chamblée, and in batteaus carried  
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down the artillery, past the fort of St. John's. After a short demur, it surrendered to the majors Brown and Livingston. The greatest acquisition was about six tons of powder, which gave great encouragement to the provincials.

On the 12th of November, Gen. Montgomery pressed on to Montreal, which, not being capable of making any defence, Gov. Carleton quitted it one day, and the American general entered it the next.

Notwithstanding the advanced season of the year, Gen. Montgomery marched on for the capital, and on the 5th of December appeared before Quebec. The garrison consisted of about fifteen hundred, while the besiegers were said to consist of little more than half that number. Upon his appearing before the city, he sent forward a flag of truce, which was fired upon by order of Sir Guy Carleton. At this Gen. Montgomery was so provoked, that the next day he wrote to Sir Guy, and in his letter departed from the common mode of conveying his sentiments; he made use of threats and language, which in his cooler moments he would have declined.

In spite of the inclemency of the season, he set about erecting works. His batteries were composed of snow and water, which soon became solid ice. He planted on them five pieces of ordnance, twelve and nine

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pounders, with one howitzer; but the artillery was inadequate, and made no impression.

In the evening, a council was held by all the commanding officers of Col. Arnold's detachment, and a large majority were for storming the garrison, as soon as the men were provided with bayonets, spears, hatchets, and hand-granades. The plan of storming the garrison was wholly the work of Gen. Montgomery, who, in the council of war held on the occasion, shewed the necessity, practicability, and importance of it, in such a clear and convincing manner, that they unanimously agreed to the measure. The attempt had the appearance of rashness; but the general was persuaded that men, who had behaved so bravely, would follow him, and that Sir Guy Carleton's forces would not fight, when actual service commenced.

On the 31st of December, the troops assembled at the hour appointed. They were to make the attack by the way of Cape Diamond, at the general's quarters on the heights of Abraham, and were headed by the general himself. Col. Arnold was to make the attack through the suburbs of St. Roe. Col. Livingston and Major Brown were to make a false attack upon the walls, to the southward of St. John's gate, and in the mean time to set fire to the gate with the combustibles prepared for that purpose. The colonel was also to give the signals for the combination of the attacks,

tacks, which were to begin exactly at five o'clock. It is said that Capt. Frazer, of the regulars, who was then on piquet, going his rounds, saw the rockets fired off as signals, and, forming a conjecture of what was going forwards, beat to arms without orders, and so prepared the garrison for defence.

The different routs the assailing bodies had to make, the depth of the snow, and other obstacles, prevented the execution of Livingston's command. The general moved with his division, attended by a number of carpenters, to the piquets at Cape Diamond. These were soon cut with the saws, and the general pulled them down himself. He then entered, attended by the carpenters and some of his officers.

On their entrance, their guides forsook them, which alarmed the general and other officers, who were unacquainted with the pass and situation of the enemy's artillery. However, they pressed on, and the general, observing that the troops did not follow with spirit, called out, "Fie, for shame! will the New York troops desert the cause in this critical moment? Will you not follow when your general leads? Push on, brave boys, Quebec is ours." A few acted with resolution, advanced, and attacked the guard-house, when the enemy gave a discharge of grape-shot from their cannon, and also of small arms, which proved fatal to the general, his

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*Death of Gen<sup>l</sup> Montgomery.*



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aide de camp, Capt. Cheefeman, and others. The firing from the guard-house ceased, by the enemy's quitting their post, and the opportunity offered for the assailants to push forward with success; but the Deputy Quartermaster General, Campbell, with the rank of a colonel, assumed the command, ordered a retreat, which took place, and the wounded were carried off to the camp.

The division under Col. Arnold was equally unsuccessful. The colonel received a wound in one of his legs from a musket ball, and was carried to the general hospital. His men maintained their ground till ten o'clock, when, all hopes of relief being over, they were at last obliged to surrender prisoners of war. In this attack the provincials lost upwards of an hundred men. Gen. Montgomery was shot through both his thighs and his head. His body was taken up the next day, an elegant coffin was prepared, and he was soon after decently interred. The general was tall and slender, well limbed, of easy, graceful, and manly address. He had the love, esteem, and confidence of the whole army; he was of a good family in Ireland, and had served with reputation in the late war with France. His excellent qualities and disposition procured him an uncommon share of private affection, and his abilities of public esteem. His death was considered as  
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a greater loss to the American cause, than all the others with which it was accompanied.

When the continental troops had connected after the unsuccessful attack on Quebec, there arose a dispute who should command, and whether it was advisable to raise the siege, or wait till a reinforcement should arrive. A council of war agreed, that Col. Arnold should command, and should continue the siege, or rather the blockade, which was accordingly done, apparently at no small risk, as they had not more than four hundred men fit for duty; but they retired about three miles from the city, and posted themselves advantageously.

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.*

*Anno 1775.*

The expedition against Ticonderoga.

Geo. Washington, Esq. elected commander in chief of the continental forces.

The battle of Bunker's-hill.

Georgia accedes to the Union.

The Thirteen United Colonies.

The Asia man of war fires upon New York.

Col. Arnold's expedition into Canada.

Falmouth destroyed, and on what account.

Col. Allen taken prisoner, and put in irons.

Gen. Montgomery appears before Quebec and is killed there.

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LET us now return to Boston and its environs, and see what was transacting there. On the 15th of February, 1776, the strength of the ice having been tried in one place, and the frost continuing, Gen. Washington was desirous of embracing the season for passing over it, from Cambridge side into Boston. He laid before the council of war the following question: "A stroke well aimed at this critical juncture may put a final period to the war, and restore peace and tranquillity so much to be wished for; and therefore, whether part of Cambridge and Roxborough bays being frozen over, a general assault should not be made on Boston?"

Gen. Ward opposed the idea, saying, "The attack must be made with a view of bringing on an engagement, or of driving the enemy out of Boston, and either end will be answered much better by possessing Dorchester heights." When the votes were called for, the majority were against the attack. It was however determined to possess themselves of Dorchester heights, which was accordingly afterwards accomplished.

On the 5th of March, the British admiral informed Gen. Howe, that if the Americans possessed those heights, he could not keep

one of his majesty's ships in the harbour. Every design of Gen. Howe to force the American works on the hill being frustrated, a counsel of war was called, when it was agreed to evacuate the town as soon as possible. The time that had been gained by the Americans for strengthening their works, took away all hopes of any successful attempts to be made on them by the British forces. The Americans had provided a great number of barrels, filled with stones, gravel and sand, which were placed round the works, ready to be rolled down, with a view to break the lines of any hostile advancing troops, when ascending the hills.

On the 7th of March, there was a general hurry and confusion in Boston, every one, in the royal interest, being busy in preparing to quit the town, and to carry off every thing that was valuable. A flag was sent out from the select men, acquainting Gen. Washington with the intention of the troops, and that Gen. Howe was disposed to leave the town standing, provided he could retire uninterrupted. Gen. Washington bound himself under no obligation, but expressed himself in words, which admitted of a favourable construction, and intimated his good wishes for the preservation of Boston. At four o'clock, in the morning of the 17th, the embarkation was completed, and before ten the whole fleet was under sail, and the pro-

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vincials soon after took possession of the town.

Let us now take a view of what was doing in Virginia. Towards the close of 1775, the Liverpool frigate arrived at Norfolk from Great Britain. Soon after, the captain sent a flag of truce, and demanded to be informed, whether his majesty's ship of war would be supplied from the shore with provisions. The reply was in the negative; and the ships in the harbour being continually annoyed by the riflemen from behind the buildings and warehouses on the wharfs, it was determined to dislodge them by destroying the town.

Previous notice was given, that the women, children, and other innocent persons, might remove from the danger. The entrance of the new year was signalized, at four o'clock in the morning, by a violent cannonade, from the Liverpool, two sloops of war, and the governor's armed ship the Dunmore, seconded by parties of sailors and marines, who landed and fired the houses next the water. Where buildings, instead of being covered with tile, slate, or lead, are covered with shingles, (thin light pieces of fir or cedar, half a yard in length, and about six inches broad) let the wind be ever so moderate, they will, upon being fired, be likely to communicate the conflagration to a distance, should the weather be dry, by the

burning shingles being driven by the force of the flames to the tops of other houses.

Thus the whole town was reduced to ashes, that the Americans might have no shelter, should they be inclined to establish a post on the spot. A few men were killed and wounded at the burning of Norfolk, the most populous and considerable town for commerce of any in Virginia. It contained about 6000 inhabitants, and many in affluent circumstances. The whole loss was estimated at more than three hundred thousand pounds sterling. However urgent the necessity, it was an odious sight to see the governor, Lord Dunmore, a principal actor in burning and destroying the best town in his government. The horrid distresses brought upon numbers of innocent persons, by these operations, must wound the feelings of all who are not hardened by a party spirit.

While matters were thus transacting in America, the ministry at home gave into great expences, to supply the army at Boston with fresh provisions and other articles. Sir Peter Parker and Earl Cornwallis, with the Acton and Thunder bomb, sailed from Portsmouth for Corke, to convoy the troops and transports there to America; but, owing to some delays, the fleet did not sail before the 13th of February. It consisted of forty three sail, and about 2500 troops.

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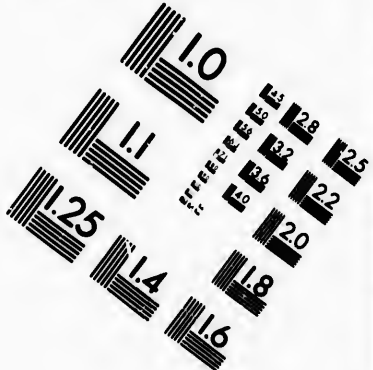
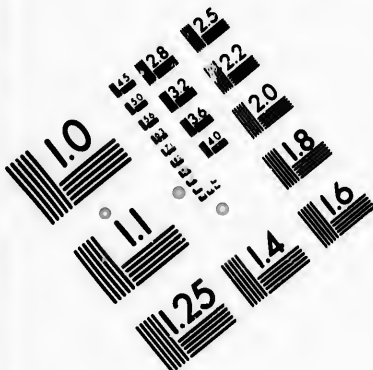
On the 14th of March, a fresh attempt was made in the house of lords, to prevent a continuance of hostilities, which so far succeeded, that in the May following, letters patent, by his Majesty's orders, passed under the great seal, constituting Lord Howe and Gen. Howe, to be his majesty's commissioners for restoring peace to the colonies in North America, and for granting pardon to such of his majesty's subjects there, then in rebellion, as should deserve the royal mercy. The same month, Commodore Hotham, with all the transports, having the first division of Hessians on board, sailed from St. Helen's for North America. But let us return to Canada, and attend to what was going forward in that quarter.

The blockade of Quebec was continued; but the fears of the Americans were great, as they had no more than 400 men to do duty, while there were upwards of three times the number in the city; they were in daily expectation that the besieged would sally out upon them. At length, a small reinforcement arrived, which enabled them to take a little more rest, though the army was again soon reduced by the small-pox that broke out among them.

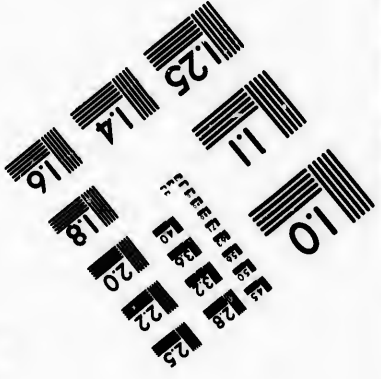
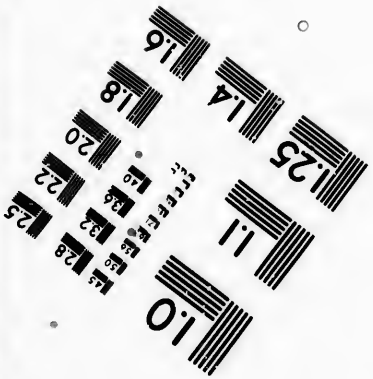
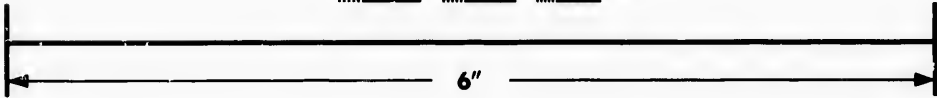
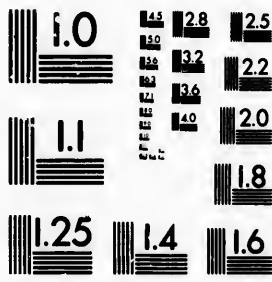
Towards the end of May, several regiments arrived from England, and the British forces in Canada were estimated at about 3,000 men. The general rendezvous was







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appointed to be at Three Rivers, half way between Quebec and Montreal. The Americans now formed a plan to surprize the British troops, and for that purpose marched under cover of the night, on the 8th of June, in order to attack them a little before day-break. Gen. Thompson, who commanded in this expedition, had procured a Canadian guide, who was either ignorant or unfaithful; for, a little before sun-rise, he found his forces were out of the proper road. They returned, but losing their way by the side of the river, they were soon in view of some of the enemy's boats, between which and the flanking party several balls were exchanged. They then quickened their pace, and continued advancing in sight of the shipping, with drums beating and fifes playing, as they knew they were discovered. The general, judging there was no possibility of passing the ships, without being exposed to all their fire, and yet determining to persist in the expedition, filed off at a right angle from the river. He meant to take a circuitous route, and enter the town on the back side. A bad morass interposed, the troops entered it, and the men were almost mired. About nine o'clock, they came to a cleared spot, formed, and got into some order about ten. They advanced, but before the rear had got off the place of formation, the front received a heavy fire from the enemy, which struck them with

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terror. The fire was instantly repeated, and though the balls flew over the heads of the troops, without doing any material execution, they gave way, and crowded back, in the utmost confusion, which left them without a leader, so that every one did as he pleased. They turned their faces up the river, and hastened through the swamp as fast as possible. About eleven they began to collect, and soon learned from the Canadians, that the enemy had sent a detachment, with several field-pieces by land, to cut off their retreat, and a party by water to seize their boats. About four they were told, that the enemy had secured the bridge before them, which it was supposed they must pass. They were also soon convinced, that a large body was closely in their rear. Col. Maxwell ordered all who had collected together to halt, called the officers to him, and said, "What shall we do? Shall we fight those in the front or in the rear? Shall we tamely submit? or shall we turn off into the woods, and each man shift for himself?" The last proposal was preferred; but the enemy was so near, that the rear of the Americans was exposed to another tremendous fire, while going down the hill into the woods, but the balls flew over them without injuring any. The person, who was entrusted with the care of the boats, had removed them in time to a secure place; so that the loss of the Americans,

which

which must otherwise have been much greater, amounted only to about 200 prisoners.

The troops that escaped began to collect about ten the next day, and by noon were considerably numerous. They got along by degrees, and by sun-set the day following arrived opposite Sorel. Gen. Thompson and Col. Irwin, the second in command, with some other officers, were taken. The killed and wounded of the king's troops were trifling.

The king's forces having joined at Three Rivers, proceeded by land and water to Sorel, off which the fleet arrived in the evening, a few hours after the rear of the Americans had left it. A considerable body was landed, and the command of the column given to Gen. Burgoyne, with instructions to pursue the continental army up the river to St. John's, but without hazarding any thing till another column on his right should be able to co-operate with him. Sir Guy Carleton's extraordinary precaution to put nothing to hazard, when not absolutely necessary, gave the Americans the opportunity of escaping. Had Burgoyne been instructed to press on with the utmost expedition, great numbers of the provincials must have been made prisoners, and but few would have crossed Lake Champlain. Thus ended the expedition against Quebec.

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To return to Boston. The British Commodore Banks, omitting to leave cruisers in the bay, afforded an opportunity to the American privateers of taking a number of Highlanders. Three days after his quitting it, the George and Annabella transports entered, after a passage of seven weeks from Scotland, during the course of which they had not an opportunity of speaking with a single vessel, that could give them the smallest information of the British troops having evacuated Boston. They were attacked in the morning by four privateers, with whom they engaged till the evening, when the privateers bore away, and the transports pushed for Boston harbour, not doubting but they should there receive protection, either from a fort or ship of force stationed for the security of British vessels. They stood up for Nantucket road; when an American battery opened upon them, which was the first serious proof they had of the situation of affairs at the port to which they were destined. They were too far embayed to retreat, as the wind had died away, and the tide was half expended. The privateers, with which they had been engaged, joined by two others, made towards them. They prepared for action; but, by some misfortune, the Annabella got a-ground so far astern of the George, that the latter expected but a feeble support from her musketry. About eleven at night, the privateers anchored close

close by, and hailed them to strike the British flag. The mate of the *George*, and every sailor on board, the captain excepted, refused to fight any longer; but the officers and privates of the seventy-first regiment stood to their quarters till all their ammunition was expended, when they were forced to yield. They had eight privates and a major killed, besides seventeen wounded. The number of Highlanders taken were 267 privates, 48 officers, besides Lieut. Col. Campbell.

On the 25th of June, Gen. Howe arrived at Sandy Hook in the *Greyhound* frigate. He soon received from Gov. Tryon a full account of the state and disposition of the province, as well as of the strength of the Americans. Gen. Washington's army was small, rather below 9000 fit for duty. Of this little army, it was said, at least 2000 were wholly destitute of arms, and nearly as many with arms in such condition as to be rather calculated to discourage than animate the user. On the 2d of July, Gen. Howe's troops took possession of Staten Island.

On the first of July, congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, upon the subject of independence; but neither colonies nor members being unanimous, it was postponed till the next day. On the fourth, they had it under further consideration, when the declaration of independence

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was agreed to and adopted. The title of it was,

“ *A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.* ”

The preamble follows in these words.—

“ When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands, which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station, to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind require that they should declare the causes that impel them to the separation.

“ We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal—that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed—that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations upon such principles, and organising its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most

most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, and such is now the necessity that constrains them to alter their former systems of government."

The declaration proceeds to give a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over those states.

On the 8th of July, at twelve o'clock, the declaration of independence was proclaimed at the state-house in Philadelphia, amidst the greatest acclamations. The next day, in consequence of general orders, it was read at the head of each brigade of the continental army at New York, and every where received with loud huzzas, and the utmost demonstrations of joy. The same evening, the equestrian statue of the king

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On the 14th of August, Lord Dunmore quitted Virginia, and joined the British forces. He arrived with Lord Campbell and Sir Peter Parker off Staten Island. His lordship continued on the coasts, and in the rivers of Virginia, till the closeness and filth of the small vessels, in which the fugitives were crowded; together with the heat of the weather, the badness and scarcity of water and provisions, produced a pestilential fever, which made great havock, especially among the negroes, many of whom were swept away. When at length every place was shut against him, and neither water nor provisions were to be obtained, but at the expence of blood, it was found necessary to burn several of the smaller and least valuable vessels, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Americans, and to send the remainder, with the exiled friends of government, to seek shelter in Florida, Bermudas, and the West Indies.

Lord Howe arrived off Halifax towards the end of June, and from thence proceeded to New York, and reached Staten Island by the 12th of July. From thence he sent on shore by a flag to Amboy, a circular letter, together with a declaration to several of the late governors of the colonies, acquainting them with his powers, and de-

siring them to publish the same as generally as possible, for the information of the people. But it was now too late to bring them back to the obedience of the mother country, since the declaration of independence had been every where solemnly read.

In the month of August, Gen. Howe finding himself sufficiently strong to attempt something, resolved on making a descent on Long island. The necessary measures being taken by the fleet for covering the descent, the army was landed, without opposition, between two small towns, Utrecht and Gravesend, not far from the Narrows, on the nearest shore to Staten Island.

On this island are several passes through the mountains or hills, which are easily defensible, being very narrow, and the lands high and mountainous on each side. These were the only roads that could be passed from the south side of the hills to the American lines, except a road leading round the easterly end of the hills to Jamaica. An early attention had been given to the importance of these passes. To the second of them, the small American parties, patrolling on the coasts, retired upon the approach of the British boats with the troops. Lord Cornwallis pushed on immediately with the reserve and some other forces; but finding the Americans in possession of the pass, in compliance with orders, he risked no attack.

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The Americans had on each of the three passes or roads a guard of 800 men; and to the east of them in the wood, Col. Miles was placed with his battalion to guard the road from the south of the hills to Jamaica, and to watch the motion of the enemy on that side, with orders to keep a party constantly reconnoitring to and across the Jamaica road. The centinels were so placed as to keep a continual communication between the three guards on the three roads.

On the 26th of August, Gen. Howe, having fully settled a plan of surprize, Gen. de Heister, with his Hessians, took post at Flatbush in the evening, and composed the centre. About nine o'clock the same night, the principal army, containing much the greater part of the British forces, under the commands of Gen. Clinton, Earl Percy, and Lord Cornwallis, marched in order to gain the road leading round the easterly end of the hills to Jamaica, and so to turn the left of the Americans. Col. Miles, whose duty it was to guard this road, suffered the British to march not less than six miles, till they were near two miles in the rear of the guards, before he discovered and gave notice of their approach.

The next day, before day-break, Gen. Clinton arrived within half a mile of the road, when he halted, and settled his disposition for the attack. One of his patrols fell

in with a patrol of American officers on horseback, who were trepanned and made prisoners. Gen. Sullivan, though in expectation that they would bring him intelligence, neglected sending out a fresh patrol on finding himself disappointed. Clinton, learning from the captured officers, that the Americans had not occupied the road, detached a battalion of light infantry to secure it, and advancing with his troops upon the first appearance of day, possessed himself of the heights that commanded the road.

About midnight, the guard, consisting all of New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians, perceiving that there was danger at hand, fled without firing a gun, and carried to Gen. Parsons, who commanded them, the account of the enemy's advancing in great numbers by that road. Gen. Grant's movements were to divert the attention of the Americans from the left, where the main attack was to be made by Gen. Clinton. By day-light, Gen. Parsons perceived, that the British were got through the wood, and were descending on the north side. He took twenty of his fugitive guard, being all he could collect, and posted them on a height in front of the British, about half a mile distant, which halted their column, and gave time for Lord Stirling to come up with his forces, amounting to about 1500, who possessed himself

himself of a hill about two miles from the camp.

The engagement began soon after day-break, by the Hessians from Flatbush, under Gen. Heister, and by Gen. Grant on the coast; and a warm cannonade, with a brisk fire of small arms, were eagerly supported on both sides for some considerable time. The Americans opposing Gen. Heister were the first who were apprised of the march of the British troops under Gen. Clinton. They accordingly retreated in large bodies, and in tolerable order, to recover their camp; but they were soon interrupted by the right wing under Gen. Clinton, who, having halted and refreshed his forces after passing the heights, continued his march, and getting into the rear of the left of the Americans, about half past eight o'clock, attacked them with his light infantry and light dragoons, while quitting the heights to return to their lines. They were driven back, and again met the Hessians, and thus were they alternately chased and intercepted. In these desperate circumstances, some of their regiments, overpowered and out-numbered as they were, forced their way to the camp, through all the dangers with which they were pressed.

The Americans under Lord Stirling, who were engaged with Gen. Grant, behaved with great bravery and resolution; but were

so late in their knowledge of what passed elsewhere, that their retreat was intercepted by some of the British troops, who, besides turning the hills and the American left, had traversed the whole extent of country in their rear. Several broke through the enemy's line, and got into the woods. Gen. Parsons, with a small party, escaped by doing the same; numbers threw themselves into the marsh at Gorvan's Cove, some were drowned, and others perished in the mud. However, a considerable body escaped to the lines. The nature of the country, and the variety of the ground, occasioned a continuance and extension of small engagements, pursuits and slaughter, which lasted for many hours before the scene closed.

The British troops displayed great valour and activity on this occasion. So impetuous was their ardour, that it was with difficulty they could be restrained, by Gen. Howe's orders, from attacking the American lines. They would probably have entered them, had not the works been completed the night before the action, by closing an opening on the right, and placing an abatis before it. The Americans were most completely surprised and effectually entrapped. Col. Smallwood's Maryland regiment suffered extremely, and was almost cut to pieces, losing 259 men. The loss was much regretted, on account of their being young men of the best families in

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the country. All who were engaged in the actions of this day did not display the same courage; nor was it to be expected from such raw troops. Many escaped from the want of discipline; for they broke at the sight of danger, and saved themselves by flight, whereas otherwise they must have been killed or taken. Large bodies however were captured. Gen. Sullivan, Lord Stirling, and Gen. Udell, besides three colonels, four lieutenant-colonels, three majors, 18 captains, 43 lieutenants, 11 ensigns, an adjutant, three surgeons, and two volunteers, were made prisoners, together with 1006 privates in all 1097. As among the prisoners the wounded were included, an allowance of between four and five hundred for killed, drowned, perished in the woods, the mud, and the like, may be reckoned about the mark. The loss of the British, in killed and wounded, did not exceed 318, of whom only 61 were killed. After the battle, the Americans retreated to New York, to which place they crossed over under the favour of a fog, taking with them all their military stores, and leaving nothing behind them but a few pieces of cannon, and some trifling matters.

*Memorable*

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.*

Anno 1776.

Gen. Howe evacuates Boston.

Norfolk in Virginia burnt.

Sir Peter Parker and Earl Cornwallis sail for America.

The blockade of Quebec continued.

The Americans raise the blockade and retreat.

A number of Highlanders taken in Boston bay.

Declaration of American independence.

Gen. Howe lands the royal army on Long Island, and drives the Americans off it.

## C H A P. VI.

**A**FTER the affair of Long Island, endeavours were used by the Americans to keep up the spirits of the people, by puffing accounts of the extraordinary bravery of their troops, and the destruction they made of the enemy. But that matters were not very promising appears from a letter of Gen. Mercer, who commanded the flying camp, dated Sept. the 4th, wherein he writes. "Gen. Washington has not, so far as I have seen, 5000 men to be depended on for the service of a campaign; and I have not 1000. Both

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our armies are composed of raw militia, perpetually fluctuating between the camp and their farms; poorly armed, and still worse disciplined. These are not a match for, were their numbers equal to, veteran troops, well fitted and urged on by able officers. Numbers and discipline must at last prevail. Giving soldiers, or even the lower orders of mankind, the choice of officers, will for ever mar the discipline of armies."

Gen. Howe, having fully prepared for a descent on New York Island, embarked a strong division of the army under the command of Gen. Clinton and others, in boats, at the head of Newtown inlet, and at another place higher up, where they could not be observed by the Americans, who expected the attack would be made on the side next to the East river, and had therefore thrown up lines and works to defend themselves.

On the 15th of September, about eleven o'clock, Gen. Howe's troops landed, under the cover of five ships of war, in two divisions, the Hessians in one place, and the British in another. As soon as Gen. Washington heard the firing of the men of war, he rode with all dispatch towards the lines; but to his great mortification, found the troops posted in them retreating with the utmost precipitation; and those ordered to support them, Parsons's and Fellows's brigade, flying in every direction, and in the greatest confusion,

confusion. His attempts to stop them were fruitless, though he drew his sword, threatened to run them through, and cocked and snapped his pistols.

On the appearance of a small party of the enemy, not more than sixty or seventy, their disorder was increased, and they ran off without firing a single shot, leaving the general in a hazardous situation, so that his attendants, to extricate him out of it, caught the bridle of his horse, and gave him a different direction.

Three large ships were stationed in the North river, opposite to those in the East river, and both kept up a constant cannonading with grape-shot and langrage quite across the island. The Hessians, upon their landing, seized and secured, in a neighbouring building, as enemies, some persons who had been placed there to serve as guides, which for a while subjected them to a difficulty.

When the regulars were completely landed, they advanced towards the King's bridge road. The American brigades, which had fled on the enemy's approaching the lines, did not stop till they were met by Col. Glover's and five other brigades, who were hastening down to them. As soon as they joined, the whole marched forward, and took post on some heights, when suddenly 8000 of the enemy appeared on the next height, and halted

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halted. Gen. Washington at first consented, that his troops should march forward, and give them battle; but, on a second consideration, he gave counter orders, as he could not have any dependence on the militia and the flying camp, which composed half the number then present. When the Americans retired, and no prospect of action remained, the English took possession of New York.

Gen. Washington, while moving the army from New York, into the country, was careful to march and form the troops, so as to make a front towards the enemy, from East Chester almost to White Plains, on the east side of the highway, thereby to secure the march of those who were behind on their right, and to defend the removal of the sick, cannon, and other matters of consequence; but the want of many necessary articles considerably retarded their march.

On the 25th of October, the royal army moved in two columns, and took a position they thought the most advantageous. Observing, however, that Gen. Washington's lines were much strengthened by additional works, he deferred all further attack till the arrival of more troops. Several skirmishes had already taken place, but nothing decisive had yet happened.

On the last day of October, Gen. Howe, being joined by the troops from Lord Percy, made dispositions for attacking the American

can lines early the next morning; but an extreme wet night and morning prevented the execution at the time appointed, and it was not attempted afterwards, though the day proved fair. Gen. Washington gained intelligence of his danger from a deserter, when he drew off most of his troops at night, totally evacuated his camp early in the morning of the first of November, and took higher ground towards the North Castle district; leaving a strong rear-guard on the heights and in the woods of White Plains. Orders were given by Gen. Howe to attack this corps; but the execution of it was prevented by a violent rain.

Though this affair at White Plains made so much noise at the time in which it happened, no general action took place, and the Americans retreated, leaving the English in possession of New York and the Jerseys.

Gen. Washington, however, soon after made a descent on Jersey, and at Trenton surprised and took prisoners 23 Hessian officers, and 886 men of the same nation. In the evening, Gen. Washington repassed the Delaware, and retired to Pennsylvania.

From this period to the month of June, 1777, nothing passed in Jersey but one continued scene of blood and slaughter among detached parties, without any decisive advantages being gained by either side. On the 30th of June, at ten o'clock in the morning,

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the English troops began to cross over to Staten Island, and the rear-guard passed at two in the afternoon, without the least appearance of an enemy. Thus they evacuated the Jerseys, to enter upon new conquests, in hopes of reducing the United States to unconditional submission.

Let us now turn to the British operations in the North, which were taken out of the hands of Sir Guy Carleton, and committed to the charge of Gen. Burgoyne. The forces allotted to them, consisting of British and German troops, amounted to more than 7000 men, exclusive of the artillery corps. A powerful brass train of artillery was furnished, probably the finest, and the most excellently supplied as to officers and private men, that had ever been destined to second the operations of an army not exceeding the present number. The army was, in every respect, in the best condition, the troops were in the highest spirits, admirably disciplined, and uncommonly healthy.

The main body, under Gen. Burgoyne, proceeded up Lake Champlain, landed and encamped at no great distance from Crown Point, where he met the Indians in congress, and afterwards, in compliance with their customs, gave them a war-feast. He made a speech to them, calculated to excite their ardour in the common cause, and at the same time to repress their barbarity. He conjured

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them, to kill those only who opposed them in arms; that old men, women, children, and prisoners, should be held sacred from the knife or hatchet, even in the heat of actual conflict; that they should scalp those only whom they had slain in fair opposition; but that under no pretence should they scalp the wounded, or even dying, much less kill persons in that condition. They were promised a compensation for prisoners, but informed, that they should be called to account for scalps.

On the near approach of the right wing of the royal army on the Ticonderoga side, the Americans abandoned their works towards Lake George, and left Gen. Phillips to possess the advantageous post of Mount Hope, without making any resistance, which would have been ineffectual, and could have answered no good purpose. That apparent supineness and want of vigour, with which they were chargeable, was not occasioned by cowardice, but actual imbecility.

Gen. Burgoyne's troops proceeded with much expedition, in the construction of their works, the bringing up of artillery, stores, and provisions; but what gave the greatest alarm was, the rapid progress they made in clearing a road, and getting artillery on Sugar Hill. When once they had erected a battery on this height, only a few hours more would  
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have been required to have invested the Americans on all sides.

Gen. St. Clair, having received intelligence by spies, that in twenty-four hours the investiture would be completed, when he should be cut off from all possibility of succour, Gen. Schuyler not having force sufficient at fort Edward to relieve him, he determined to evacuate his posts, though he knew it would produce such astonishment as had not happened since the commencement of the war. He plainly perceived, that if he continued there, he should lose the army, but save his character; whereas, by abandoning the place, he should save the army, and lose his character. A council of war was called, and it was unanimously concluded upon to evacuate as soon as possible.

At two o'clock in the morning of July the 6th, Gen. St. Clair left Ticonderoga. About three the troops were put in motion for the evacuation of the Mount; but Fermoy having set fire to his house, contrary to positive orders, the whole Mount was enlightened by it, so that the enemy had an opportunity of seeing every thing that passed, which damped the spirits of the Americans, and induced them to push off in a disorderly manner.

In the morning, Gen. Frazer, perceiving the evacuation, and that the Americans were retiring, commanded a pursuit with his brigade,

gade, consisting of the light troops, grenadiers, and some other corps. Gen. Reidesel, with most of the Brunswickers, was ordered by Gen. Burgoyne to join in the pursuit, either to support Frazer, or to act separately. The latter continued the pursuit through the day, and receiving intelligence, that St. Clair's rear was at no great distance, he ordered his troops to lie that night on their arms. In the morning, he came up with the Americans, commanded by Col. Warner, who had, besides his own, the regiments of Colonels Francis and Hale. The British advanced boldly, and the two bodies formed within about sixty yards of each other. Frazer began the attack about seven o'clock, expecting every moment to be joined by Reidesel, and apprehending, that if he delayed, the enemy would escape. Hale being apprized of the danger, never brought his regiment to the charge, but fled; so that Warner could bring into action no more than about 700 men. The conflict was bloody: Francis fell fighting with great bravery, and Warner, his officers, and soldiers, behaved with much resolution and gallantry; so that the British broke and gave way, but soon formed again, and running on the Americans with their bayonets, the latter were put into no small confusion, which was encreased by the critical arrival of Gen. Reidesel with the foremost of his column, consisting of the

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Chasseur company, and eighty grenadiers and light infantry, who were immediately led into action. The Americans now fled on all sides. Gen. St. Clair heard when the firing began, and would have supported Warner; but the troops that were nearest, two militia regiments, would not obey orders, and the others were at too great a distance. Hale, who had attempted to get off by flight, fell in with an inconsiderable party of British, and surrendered himself and a number of his men prisoners. The Americans lost 324 in killed, wounded, and prisoners, and among the last were 12 officers. The royal troops, including British and German, had not less than 183 killed and wounded.

The evacuation of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence surprised Gen. Washington, and spread astonishment and terror through the New England states. The general was led to believe that the garrison was much stronger. The Massachusetts general-court were faulty, in not having seasonably forwarded their quota of troops, agreeable to the requisition of congress.

Let us now return to see what was doing Gen. Howe. The British fleet and army which lay at Sandy Hook, were destined for the reduction of Philadelphia, in pursuance of a plan which had been settled between Sir William Howe and Lord George Germain, but did not sail till the 23d of July. The land

land forces consisted of thirty-six British and Hessian battalions, including the light infantry and grenadiers, with a powerful artillery, a New York corps, called Queen's Rangers, and a regiment of light horse, estimated all together at about 16,000 men. The fleet consisted of 267 sail. Gen. Howe's thus abandoning Burgoyne equally excited the astonishment of friends and enemies.

On the 14th of June, the congress resolved, that the flag of the Thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

It was not till the third of September that the royal army began to move forwards. On its advancing near to the Americans, they abandoned their ground, perceiving that it would not answer their first expectation. They crossed Brandywine at Chad's ford, and took possession of the heights on the east side of it, with an evident intention of disputing the passage of the river; but the superior numbers of the regular forces at last obliged them to retire.

A little after sun-rise on the 11th of September, a warm engagement commenced, which lasted till the approach of night. On this occasion, the Americans shewed great resolution and courage; but a few hours more of day-light might have so animated the conquering regulars, fatigued as they were,

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as to have produced those exertions, which would have been productive of a total and ruinous defeat to the Americans. It was said, by the Americans themselves, that in this action, their loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, was about twelve or thirteen hundred; and that the royal army did not suffer, on their part, short of seven or eight hundred, in killed and wounded. The Americans also lost ten small field pieces, and a howitzer, of which all but one were brass.

The evening after the battle, a party of regulars was sent to Wilmington, who took the governor of the Delaware state, Mr. M'Kenley, out of his bed, and possessed themselves of a shallop lying in the creek, loaded with the rich effects of some of the inhabitants, together with the public records of the county, and a large quantity of public and private money, besides articles of plate, and other things.

After various motions of the regular army, on the 26th of September, Gen. Howe made his triumphal entry into Philadelphia, with a small part of his army, where he was most cordially received by the generality of the quakers, and a few other royalists. The bulk of his troops were left in and about German town, a village forming one continued street for near two miles. Gen. Washington's army was encamped near Shippach-creek, about eighteen miles from thence.

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The congress, on the loss of Philadelphia, removed to York-town.

To return to the northern army, under the command of Gen. Burgoyne. Several actions took place, between the Americans and regulars, in the intended march of the British towards Albany. In these different skirmishes, the regulars suffered very considerably, as well as the Indians in their interest. The principal action happened at Bennington, in which the Americans took from the English four brass field pieces, twelve drums, 250 dragoon swords, four ammunition waggons, and about 700 prisoners, among whom was Lieut. Col. Baum.

On the 30th of August, the English commander had occasion to write to Gen. Gates, and in his letter complained of inhumanity exercised towards the provincial soldiers in the king's service after the affair of Bennington, and then hinted at retaliation. Gen. Gates, in his answer of Sept. the 2d, invalidated the charge, and then retorted the Indian cruelties, which he imputed to Burgoyne, saying, "Miss M'Rea, a young lady, lovely to the sight, of virtuous character, and amiable disposition, engaged to an officer in your army, was, with other women and children, taken out of a house near Fort Edward, carried into the woods, and there murdered and mangled in a most shocking manner. Two parents

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parents, with their six children, were all scalped and treated with the same inhumanity, while quietly residing in their once happy and peaceful dwellings. The miserable fate of Miss M'Rea was particularly aggravated, by her being dressed to receive her promised husband, when she met her murderer employed by you. Upwards of one hundred, men, women, and children, have perished by the hands of the ruffians, to whom, it is asserted, you have paid the price of blood." Gen. Burgoyne, in his reply of the 6th of the same month, vindicated his own character; shewed that Miss M'Rea's death was no premeditated barbarity, and declared, that every other charge, exhibited by Gen. Gates, was ill-founded and erroneous.

The murder of Miss M'Rea exasperated the Americans, and from that and other cruelties occasion was taken to blacken the royal party and army. The people detested that army which accepted of such Indian aid, and loudly reprobated that government which could call in such auxiliaries. Gen. Gates was not deficient in aggravating, by several publications, the excesses that had taken place, and with no small advantage to his own military operations.

On the 18th of September, Gen. Burgoyne, having been very short of provisions, at length received a supply for about thirty days,

days, together with other necessary stores. He then resolved upon passing the Hudson's river with the army, which having executed, he encamped on the heights and on the plain of Saratoga. The Americans, observing the motions of the royal army, marched out 3000 strong, in order to attack him, but found that to be prudentially impracticable. However, they drew up in full view of him, and there remained till dark.

The next day, some of the American scouting parties fell in with those of the British, and with great boldness began the attack about one o'clock at noon. The firing was no sooner heard by Gen. Philips, than he made his way, with a part of the artillery, through the woods, and rendered essential services. Each commander supported, reinforced, and ordered different regiments to engage. The battle was hot and obstinate on both sides, till about half past two o'clock, when it ceased for half an hour. The American and British lines being fully formed, the action was renewed, and became general at three. Both armies appeared determined to conquer or die, and there was one continual blaze of fire for three hours without intermission; the report of the muskets resembled an incessant roll-beating on a number of drums. The Americans and British alternately drove and were driven by each other. Three British regiments, the 20th, the 21st, and

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and the 62d, were in constant and close fire for near four hours. All suffered considerable loss: the 62d, which was 500 strong when it left Canada, was now reduced to less than 60 men, and to four or five officers. Few actions have been characterised, by more obstinacy in attack or defence, than was the present. Both parties claimed the victory, though neither had much advantage to boast of.

From this time till near the middle of October, battles and skirmishes continually took place between the two armies, and the British were sadly reduced and weakened. On the 13th Gen. Burgoyne, finding that the troops had only three days provisions in store, on short allowance, and no apparent means of retreat remaining, called into council all the generals, field officers, and captains commanding troops. There was not a spot of ground in the whole camp for holding the council of war, but what was exposed to cannon or rifle shot; and while the council was deliberating, an eighteen-pound ball crossed the table. By the unanimous advice of the council, the general was induced to open a treaty with Gen. Gates. The first proposals of the latter were rejected, and the sixth article with disdain, wherein it was required, that the British army should lay down their arms in their intrenchments. Burgoyne's counter-proposals were unanimously approved, and being sent to Gates were  
 agreed

agreed to, on the 15th, without any material alteration.

Gen. Gates being fearful of the consequences that might follow, should Gen. Vaughan with his troops come up in time to Burgoyne's assistance, determined upon bringing the matter to an immediate issue. On the morning of the 17th, he got every thing in readiness for attacking the royal army. This done, he took out his watch, the time agreed for signing being come. He then sent Col. Groaton on horseback to Burgoyne with a message, requiring the general to sign, and allowed him no more than ten minutes to go and return. He was back in time, the treaty was signed, all hostile appearances ceased, and the Americans marched into the British lines to the tune of Yankee Doodle. They were kept there until the royal army had marched out of their lines, and deposited their arms at the place appointed by the treaty.

The delicacy with which this business was conducted reflects the highest honour upon the American general. It intimated, that he was sensible of the mortification attending a reverse of fortune, and that he was unwilling to aggravate the painful feelings of the royal troops, by admitting the American soldiers to be eye-witnesses to the degrading spectacle of piling their arms. When the arms were deposited agreeable to treaty, the royal

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royal troops were served with bread by the Americans, as they had not any left, nor flour to make it. They had only one day's salt meat remaining.

The treaty was stiled, "A convention between Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne and Major Gen. Gates." Among other articles it was stipulated, "That the troops under Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne shall march out of their camp with the honours of war, and the artillery of the entrenchments, to the verge of the river, where the arms and artillery are to be left.—The arms to be piled by word of command from their own officers.—A free passage to be granted to the royal army to Great Britain, upon condition of not serving again in North America during the present contest; and the port of Boston to be assigned for the entry of transports to receive the troops, whenever Gen. Howe shall so order.—The officers baggage not to be molested or searched.—During the stay of the troops in the Massachusetts bay, the officers are to be admitted on parole, and be allowed to wear their side-arms."

The return signed by Gen. Burgoyne, at the time of the convention, made the British army, including Germans, amount to 5791, which was very short of the number they had on setting out from Canada. The train of brass artillery, consisting of 42 pieces, was a fine acquisition to the Americans. There

were also 4647 muskets, 6000 dozen of cartridges, besides shot, carcasses, shells, &c.

Had Clinton advanced in time, Burgoyne would have been saved; but the troops he dispatched under Gen. Vaughan amused themselves with burning *Æsopus*, a fine village in the neighbourhood of Still-water. Gen. Vaughan, with a flood tide, might have reached Albany in four hours, as there was no force to hinder him. Had he proceeded thither, and burnt the stores, Gates, as he himself afterwards declared, must have retreated into New England.

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.*

*Anno 1776.*

Wretched state of the armies under the Generals Washington and Gates.

New York taken by the royal forces.

The battle of the White Plains.

A body of Hessians defeated at Trenton.

*Anno 1777.*

Gen. Howe embarks his army from Staten Island.

Gen. Burgoyne proceeds to Crown Point.

Tyconderoga and Mount Independence evacuated.

Flag of the United States erected.

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Battle at the Brandywine.

Account of Miss M'Rea's death.

Americans engage the British under Gen. Burgoyne.

Distress and Calamity of the Royal army.

Gen. Burgoyne baffled in all his designs.

Signs the Convention.

Æsopus burnt by the troops under General Vaughan.

## C H A P. VII.

**T**OWARDS the end of October, 1777, the royal army, under the command of Sir William Howe, removed to Philadelphia. Measures being concerted between the general and admiral for clearing the Delaware of its obstructions, the former ordered batteries to be erected on the western or Pennsylvanian shore, to assist in dislodging the Americans from Mud Island. He also detached a strong body of Hessians cross the river, who were to reduce the fort at Red-bank, while the ships and batteries on the other side were to attack Mud Island. Count Donop, in the service of the English, was intrusted with the expedition against Red-bank; but he failed in the attempt. He was mortally wounded and taken prisoner, several of his best officers were killed or disabled, and the Hessians, after a desperate engagement, were

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repulsed

repulsed. The second in command being also dangerously wounded, the detachment was brought off by Lieut. Col. Linning. It is said that the royal detachment lost, on this occasion, between four and five hundred men.

The expedition against Mud Island met with better success, the Americans being driven from thence, and forced to retire to Red-bank.

On the night of the 18th of November, Lord Cornwallis marched with a considerable force, and the next day crossed the Delaware, in his way to Red-bank, which the Americans abandoned, leaving behind them the artillery, and a considerable quantity of cannon ball. The English generals confessed, that the long and unexpected opposition they received from Red-bank and Mud Island, broke in upon their plans for the remainder of the campaign.

On the third of May, 1778, Mr. Simion Deane arrived in America express from France, with very important dispatches. The congress was immediately convened, and the dispatches opened and read, among which, to their inexpressible joy, were a treaty of commerce, and a treaty of alliance, concluded between his most Christian majesty the king of France and the United States of America. The treaties were duly weighed and considered separately the next day,

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day, and upon each it was unanimously resolved, "That the same be, and is hereby accepted." The next resolution was, "That this congress entertain the highest sense of the magnanimity and wisdom of his most Christian majesty, so strongly exemplified in the treaty of amity and commerce; and the commissioners representing their states, at the court of France, are directed to present the grateful acknowledgments of this congress to his most Christian majesty, for his truly magnanimous conduct respecting these states, in the said generous and disinterested treaties, and to assure his majesty, on the part of this congress, it is sincerely wished, that the friendship so happily commenced between France and these United States may be perpetual."

The congress, after receiving the treaties, had a stronger feeling of their own importance than before, and resolved, "That the commissioners appointed for the courts of Spain, Tuscany, Vienna, and Berlin, should live in such style and manner at their respective courts, as they may find suitable and necessary to support the dignity of their public character."

On the first of May, they agreed to a draught of "An address to the inhabitants of the United States of America." In this publication, when they come to the French treaty, they say, "You have still to expect

one severe conflict. Your foreign alliances, though they secure your independence, cannot secure your country from desolation, your habitations from plunder, your wives from insult or violation, nor your children from butchery. Foiled in the principal design, you must expect to feel the rage of disappointed ambition. Arise then! to your tents, and gird you for battle! It is time to turn the headlong current of vengeance upon the head of the destroyer. They have filled up the measure of their abominations, and like fruit must soon drop from the tree. Although much is done, yet much remains to do. Expect not peace, while any corner of America is in the possession of your foes. You must drive them away from this land of Promise, a land flowing indeed with milk and honey. Your brethren at the extremities of the continent already implore your friendship and protection. It is your duty to grant their request. They hunger and thirst after liberty. Be it yours to dispense to them the heavenly gift. And what is there now to prevent it?"

In the month of May, the American Randolph frigate, of 36 guns, and 305 men, sailed on a cruise from Charlestown. The Yarmouth, of 64 guns, discovered her and five other vessels, and came up with her in the evening. Capt. Vincent hailed the Randolph to hoist colours, or he would fire into her;



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*Destruction of the Randolph Frigate.*

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her; on which she hoisted American, and immediately gave the Yarmouth her broadside, which was returned, and in about a quarter of an hour she blew up. Four men saved themselves upon a piece of her wreck, and subsisted for five days upon nothing more than rain water, which they sucked from a piece of blanket they had picked up. On the fifth, the Yarmouth being in chace of a ship, happily discovered them waving. The captain humanely suspended the chace, hauled up to the wreck, got a boat out, and brought them on board.

On the 7th of May, the second battalion of British light infantry, in flat boats, attended by three gallies and other armed boats, proceeded up the Delaware, in order to destroy all the American ships and vessels lying in the river between Philadelphia and Trenton. They landed the next morning, advanced towards Bordentown, drove the Americans that opposed them, entered the town, and burnt four store-houses, containing provisions, tobacco, some military stores, and camp equipage. The country being alarmed, and a strong body collected, the battalion crossed to the Pennsylvanian shore. The next day they resumed their operations, and at sun-set embarked and returned to Philadelphia. While upon the expedition, they burnt two frigates, one of 32, the other of 28 guns; nine large ships, three privateer  
sloops

sloops of 16 guns each, three of ten guns, twenty-three brigs, with a number of sloops and schooners. Two of the ships were loaded with tobacco, rum, and military stores.

Gen. Howe was succeeded in the command of the army by Sir Henry Clinton, who arrived at Philadelphia on the 8th of May.

On the 6th of February, the treaties between France and the United States were signed. The alliance between these two powers was known to the British ministry soon after they were signed. Mr. Fox, in a debate in the House of Commons five days afterwards, asserted, that the number of men lost to the army, in killed, disabled, deserted, and from various other causes, from the commencement of hostilities with America to that period, amounted to above twenty thousand.

On the 17th Lord North introduced his conciliatory propositions. His plan was to enable the crown to appoint commissioners to treat with the colonies concerning the means of putting an end to those unhappy contests; for which five persons were invested with ample powers. His lordship said in his speech, that Gen. Howe had been, in the late actions, and in the whole course of the campaign, not only in the goodness of troops, and in all manner of supplies, but also in

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point of numbers, much superior to the American army that opposed him in the field; that Gen. Burgoyne had been in numbers, until the affair at Bennington, nearly twice as strong as the army of the enemy; that he promised a great army should be sent out, and that a great army had accordingly been sent out, to the amount of 60,000 men and upwards.

The speech was long, able, and eloquent, and kept him up two full hours. A dull melancholy silence for some time succeeded. It was heard with profound attention, but without a single mark of approbation. Astonishment, dejection, and fear, over clouded the whole assembly. It was conjectured, that some powerful motive had induced ministry to adopt such an alteration of measures. This idea was confirmed by the positive assertion of Mr. Fox, that a treaty had been signed at Paris between the colonies and France, by which she recognized her independence.

On the 13th of March, the French ambassador delivered a rescript to Lord Weymouth, in which he informed the court of London, that the king had signed a treaty of friendship and commerce with the United States of America. The knowledge of this transaction was communicated under the parade of cultivating the good understanding between France and Great Britain.

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On the 21th of March, a public audience and reception were given to the American commissioners, Mess. Franklin, Deane, and Lee, by the French monarch. They were introduced by Monf. Vergennes, and received by the king with the usual formalities and ceremonies. The striking acknowledgment of the plenipotentiaries from the United States mortified the ministry and crown of Great Britain, and may be pronounced the political phenomenon of Europe. The day before it was exhibited, the French ambassador, in consequence of orders to quit London, set out for Paris.

From this time, the courts of London and Versailles were busied in fitting out their fleets, which met each other in the month of July. The English fleet was commanded by the Admirals Keppel, Palliser, and Harland. But, as the action of that day is amply related in our History of England, we shall not introduce in these annals of America, an account of so foul a tarnish to the British flag.

In the beginning of June, the Trident British man of war arrived in the Delaware, with the Earl of Carlisle, Mr. Eden, and Gov. Johnstone, three of the commissioners for restoring peace between Great Britain and America.

On the 18th of June, at three o'clock in the morning, the British evacuated Philadel-  
phia,

phia, Mr. Eden having brought with him secret instructions from England for that purpose. They proceeded to Gloucester Point, three miles down the river, and before ten the whole had passed in safety cross the Delaware into New Jersey.

When intelligence of Sir Henry Clinton's having evacuated Philadelphia reached the American head-quarters, Gen. Washington took his measures accordingly. Several skirmishes happened between the Americans and the regulars with various success, till on the 30th of June the royal army arrived in the neighbourhood of Sandy Hook. During the course of the march from Philadelphia, the royal army was much reduced, upwards of 800 having deserted, a great number of whom were Hessians.

On the 5th of July, the army passed over a bridge of boats cross a narrow channel to Sandy Hook, and were afterwards carried up to New York. On the 7th, Lord Howe received advice, that the Squadron from Toulon was arrived at Virginia. Count d'Estaing anchored on the 8th at night at the entrance of the Delaware. The next morning, he weighed and sailed towards the Hook, and on the evening of the 11th anchored without it. Had not bad weather and unexpected impediments prevented, the count must have surprized Howe's fleet in the Delaware, as the latter would not have had time to escape  
after

after being apprised of his danger. The destruction of the fleet must have been the consequence of such a surprisal, and that must have occasioned the inevitable loss of the royal army, which would have been so enclosed by the French squadron on the one side, and the American forces on the other, that the Saratoga catastrophe must have been repeated. Lord Howe's fleet consisted only of six sixty-four gun ships, three of fifty, and two of forty, with some frigates and sloops. Count d'Estaing had twelve ships of the line, some of which were of great force and weight.

On the 22d of July, the count sailed from Sandy Hook, when about twenty sail of vessels bound to New York fell into his possession. They were chiefly prizes taken from the Americans; but, had he stayed a few days longer, Admiral Byron's fleet must have fallen a defenceless prey into their hands. That squadron had met with unusual bad weather, and being separated in different storms, and lingering through a tedious passage, arrived scattered, broken, sickly, dismasted, or otherwise damaged in various degrees of distress, upon different and remote parts of the American coast. Between the departure of d'Estaing and the 30th of July, the Renown of 50 guns from the West Indies, the Raisable and Centurion of 64, and the Cornwall of 74 guns, all arrived singly

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singly at sandy Hook. By d'Estaing's speedy departure a number of provision ships from Cork escaped also, together with their convoy. They went up the Delaware within fifty miles of Philadelphia after Lord Howe had quitted the river, not having obtained any information of what had happened. The British ministry had neglected countermanding their destination, though orders for the evacuation of Philadelphia had been sent off so early, as to have admitted of their receiving fresh instructions where to have steered before sailing. Great rejoicings were made at New York upon their safe arrival, especially as provisions were much wanted both by the fleet and army.

Let us now quit the military operations for the present, and take a view of the pending negociations. Gov. Johnstone, meaning to avail himself of former connections, endeavoured to commence or renew a private correspondence with several members of congress, and other persons of consideration. In his letters to them he used a freedom with the authority under which he acted, not customary with those entrusted with delegated power, and afforded such a degree of approbation to the Americans in the past resistance they had made, as is seldom granted by negociators to their opponents. In a letter to Joseph Reed, Esq. of April the 11th, he said, "The man, who can be instrumental in  
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bringing us all to act once more in harmony, and to unite together the various powers which this contest has brought forth, will deserve more from the king and people, from patriotism, humanity, and all the tender ties that are affected by the quarrel and reconciliation, than ever was yet bestowed on human kind."

On the 16th of June, he wrote to Robert Morris, Esq. "I believe the men, who have conducted the affairs of America, incapable of being influenced by improper motives; but in all such transactions there is risk, and I think that whoever ventures should be secured; at the same time that honour and emolument should naturally follow the fortune of those, who have steered the vessel in the storm, and brought her safely to port. I think Washington and the president have a right to every favour that a grateful nation can bestow, if they could once more unite our interest, and spare the miseries and devastations of war."

On Sunday the 21st of June, Mr. Reed received a written message from Mrs. Ferguson, expressing a desire to see him on business, which could not be committed to writing. On his attending in the evening, agreeable to her appointment, after some previous conversation, she enlarged upon the great talents and amiable qualities of Gov. Johnstone, and added, that in several conver-

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sations with her, he had expressed the most favourable sentiments of Mr. Reed; that it was particularly wished to engage his interest to promote the object of the British commissioners, viz. a re-union of the two countries, if consistent with his principles and judgment; and that in such case it could not be deemed unbecoming or improper in the British government to take a favourable notice of such conduct; and that, in this instance, Mr. Reed might have ten thousand pounds sterling, and any office in the colonies in his majesty's gift.

Mr. Reed, finding an answer was expected, replied, "I am not worth purchasing; but, such as I am, the king of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it." However right the principles might be, on which this insinuating scheme of conciliation was adopted, its effects were inimical.

On the 9th of July, congress ordered, "That all letters received by members of congress from any of the British commissioners, or their agents, or from any subject of the king of Great Britain, of a public nature, be laid before congress." The preceding letters being communicated, and Mr. Reed making a declaration of what had passed within his knowledge, congress resolved, "That the same cannot be considered but as direct attempts to corrupt and bribe the congress; that as congress feel, so they ought to demon-

demonstrate, the highest and most pointed indignation against such daring and atrocious attempts to corrupt their integrity; and that it is incompatible with the honour of congress to hold any manner of correspondence or intercourse with the said George Johnstone, Esq. especially to negociate with him upon affairs, in which the cause of liberty is concerned."

The proceedings in this business were expressed in the form of a declaration, a copy of which was ordered to be signed by the president, and sent by a flag to the commissioners at New York.

These proceedings produced a very angry and violent declaration from Gov. Johnstone, in which the immediate operations of passion and disappointment were too conspicuous. The language of his publication but poorly agreed with the high and flattering compliments he had so lately lavished on the Americans, in those very letters, which were the subject of the present contest. It was dated the 26th of August, and transmitted to congress; together with a declaration of the same date from Lord Carlisle, Sir Henry Clinton, and Mr. Eden, which went to a solemn and total disavowal, so far as related to the present subject, of their having had any knowledge, directly or indirectly, of those matters specified by congress.

Thus

Thus were all hopes of further negotiation with congress at an end. Had Lord North, and the rest of the ministry then in being, adopted these corrupting measures in the more early part of the American disputes, it is possible they might have succeeded; but to attempt it at a time, when the spirits of the Americans were raised to the highest pitch by their new alliance with France, was surely little short of folly and madness.

On the 6th of August, the Hon. Sieur Gerard was introduced to the congress, in quality of minister plenipotentiary, who produced a letter from his master the king of France to *his very dear great friends and allies*; and the compliments Mons. Gerard received on this occasion were very different from those sentiments the Americans lately entertained of their *now* faithful allies!

On the 14th of September, congress proceeded to the election of a minister plenipotentiary to the court of France, when Dr. Benjamin Franklin was elected by ballot. His instructions were dated the 26th of October, and by them he was directed to obtain, if possible, the French king's consent to expunge two of the articles in the treaty of commerce. The doctor was to inculcate the certainty of ruining the British fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, and consequently the British marine, by reducing Halifax and Quebec.

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.**Anno 1777.*

Count Donop repulsed by the attack upon Red Bank.

Mud Island reduced.

Congress receive the treaties concluded between France and the United States.

*Anno 1778.*

The Randolph American frigate blown up.  
Sir Henry Clinton succeeds Gen. Howe in America.

The treaties between France and the United States signed.

Lord North's consiliatory propositions.

Mess. Franklin, Deane, and Lee, have a public audience at the French court.

The British army evacuates Philadelphia.

Skirmishes between the English and Americans.

The British forces arrive at Sandy Hook.

Gov. Johnstone attempts to corrupt certain Members of the congress.

Dr. Franklin sent as Minister to the court of France.

C H A P.

## CHAPTER VIII.

THE campaign in the northern states having produced nothing advantageous to the British, and the winter being the proper season for southern expeditions, Sir Henry Clinton concluded upon turning his arms against Georgia. He might propose to himself the reduction of all the southern states, and he strongly inclined to it, by reason that these states produced the most valuable articles of commerce for the European market, and carried on a considerable export trade, which appeared no otherwise affected by the war, than as it suffered from the British cruizers. The rice was devoted to the service of its enemies, while it was wanted for the support of the royal fleet and army in America. A plan of operations was concerted with Gen. Prevost, who commanded in East Florida; and it was intended, that Georgia should be invaded both on the north and south sides at the same time.

This expedition was committed to Col. Campbell, and the forces appointed to act under him amounted to full 2500, which sailed from Sandy Hook, on the 27th of November, being escorted by a small squadron under Commodore Hyde Parker. The fleet arrived at the Isle of Tibee, near the mouth of the Savannah,

Savannah, and on the 29th of December, the troops effected a landing. They were no sooner landed, than they were led to attack the fort, which the British persisted in with so much spirit and rapidity, that the Americans retreated with precipitation and disorder. No victory was ever more complete: thirty-eight officers, and 415 non-commissioned and privates, 48 pieces of cannon, 23 mortars, the fort with its ammunition and stores, the shipping in the river, a large quantity of provisions, with the capital of Georgia, were all, within the space of a few hours, in the possession of the British troops.

The 30th of December was appointed as a thanksgiving-day, by order of congress. The affairs of the United States were at this period in a most distressed, deplorable, and ruinous condition. Idleness, dissipation, and extravagance, seemed to have engrossed the attention of the generality of the American sons of liberty; and self-interest, speculation, and an insatiable thirst for riches, appeared to have got the better of every other consideration, and almost of every order of men. Party disputes and personal quarrels were too much the general object, while the momentous concerns of the empire, a vast accumulated debt, ruined finances, depreciated money, and want of credit, which naturally brings on the want of every thing, were but secondary considerations, and postponed by  
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congress from time to time, as if their affairs were in the most flourishing situation. The paper currency in Philadelphia was daily sinking, and at length even so low as fifty per cent, yet an assembly, a concert, a dinner or supper, which cost two or three hundred pounds, did not only take men off from acting, but even from thinking of what ought to have been nearest their hearts. Some of the most disinterested and patriotic Americans felt more distress from this review of things, than they had done at any other time, from the disappointments and losses in the course of the war.

In the mean time, *Monf. Gerard*, the French ambassador, manifested a desire, that the war might not be prolonged by too high and unreasonable demands, and that the United States would reduce their ultimatum as low as possible. He strongly recommended moderation, as the fate of war was uncertain; and he hinted, that a decisive naval engagement, in favour of the British, might give a great turn to their affairs.

The South-Carolina delegates, rather with a view to conquest, than from any special apprehension of danger to their own or neighbouring states from the troops under *Gen. Clinton*, requested the congress to appoint *Gen. Lincoln*, on whose character they justly reposed great confidence, to the command of all the forces to the southward. Accordingly

cordingly they made the appointment on the 25th of September, and ordered him immediately to repair to Charlestown.

On the 2d of March, the American officer of the day reported, that reconnoitring parties of the enemy's horse and foot had been seen within their piquet the night preceding. Gen. Ashe, who had crossed the Savannah with about 1200 troops, besides 200 light horse, returned on the evening of the same day to his camp. In short, the conduct of Gen. Ashe was so pusillanimous, that he made no preparations to impede the march of the British, and, soon after their appearance, he and his troops fled with precipitation, without firing a gun.

In the month of May, Sir Henry Clinton dispatched Sir George Collier and Gen. Matthews, with about 2000 men, besides 500 marines, to make a descent upon Virginia. They sailed for Portsmouth in that province, and upon their arrival landed their troops at a distance, then marched, and took immediate possession of the town, which was defenceless. The remains of Norfolk, on the opposite side of the river, fell of course into their hands. On the approach of the fleet and army, the Americans burnt several vessels, others were saved and possessed by the British. The guards were pushed forwards eighteen miles by night to Suffolk, where they arrived by day-light, and proceeded to  
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destroy a magazine of provisions, together with the vessels and naval stores found there. A similar destruction was carried on at other places in that quarter, nor were the frigates and armed vessels less active or successful in their service.

Within the fortnight that the fleet and army continued upon the coast, the loss of the Americans was prodigious. Above 130 vessels of all sorts, including some privateers and ships of force, were destroyed or taken by them; seventeen prizes were brought away, besides 3000 hogheads of tobacco, which fell into their possession at Portsmouth. Except the house of a widow and the church, they burnt every house in Suffolk, and all the principal houses of gentlemen in this route shared the same fate.

On the 30th of May, the troops were joined to others going up the North river to attack the posts of Stoney Point and Verplank, where the Americans had begun to construct strong works, for keeping the lower communication open between the eastern and southern states. Gen. Vaughan landed with the greater part on the east-side, while the remainder, accompanied by Sir Henry Clinton, advanced further up, landed on the west-side, and took possession of Stoney Point without opposition. Directly opposite, the Americans had completely finished a strong fort, which was defended by  
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four pieces of artillery, and a garrison of about seventy men. But it was commanded by Stoney Point; to the summit of whose rocks cannon and mortars were dragged up during the night. By five in the morning, a battery was opened, which poured a storm of fire on the fort, while Vaughan with his division, making a long circuit by the sides of the hills, arrived, and closely invested it by land. The garrison, finding themselves totally overpowered, surrendered themselves prisoners of war. By the loss of these posts, the Jersey people were obliged to make a circuit of about ninety miles under the mountains, to communicate with the states east of Hudson's river.

After the French had taken Grenada, and Count d'Estaing was lying with his fleet at Cape François, he received letters from Gov. Rutledge, Gen. Lincoln, the French consul at Charlestown, and others, urging him to visit the American coast, and proposing an attack upon Savannah. The general engaged to join him with a thousand men certain, and promised that every exertion should be made to encrease the number. The application coinciding with the king's instructions, to act in concert with the forces of the United States, whenever an occasion presented itself, he sailed for the American continent within a few days after it was received.

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On the 1st of September, Count d'Estaing arrived with a fleet of twenty sail of the line, two of fifty guns, and eleven frigates. The appearance of the French fleet on the coasts of South-Carolina and Georgia was so unexpected by the British, that the Experiment man of war, of fifty guns, Sir James Wallace, commander, and three frigates, were captured. No sooner was it known at Charlestown, that the Count was on the coast, than Lincoln marched with all expedition for Savannah, with the troops under his command; and orders were also given for the South-Carolina and Georgia militia to rendezvous immediately near the same place. The British were equally diligent in preparing for their defence.

The French and Americans, after having spent some time in making regular approaches, at last determined to take the place by storm. Accordingly, the morning of the 9th of October was fixed for the attack, and neither the French nor the Americans had the least doubts of success.

Two feints were made with the country militia, and a real attack, a little before daylight, on the Spring-hill battery, with 3,500 French troops, 600 continentals, and 350 of the Charlestown militia, headed by Count d'Estaing and Gen. Lincoln. They marched up to the lines with great boldness; but a heavy and well-directed fire from the batteries,

and a cross fire from the galleys, threw the front of the column into confusion. Two standards, however, one an American, were planted on the British redoubts.—Count Pulaski, at the head of 200 horsemen, was in full gallop, riding into town between the redoubts, with an intention of charging in the rear, when he received a mortal wound. A general retreat of the assailants took place, after they had stood the enemy's fire for fifty-five minutes. D'Estaing received two slight wounds; 637 of his troops, and 234 of the continentals, were killed or wounded. Of the 350 Charlestown militia, who were in the hottest of the fire, only six were wounded, and a captain killed. Gen. Prevost and Major Moncrieff deservedly acquired great reputation by their successful defence. There were not ten guns mounted on the lines when the enemy first appeared, and in a few days the number exceeded eighty. The garrison was between two and three thousand, including 150 militia. The damage it sustained was trifling, as the men fired under cover and few of the assailants fired at all.

Let us now see what the northern army was doing. In the middle of December, part of Gen. Washington's army was without bread; and for the rest he had not, either on the spot or within reach, a supply sufficient for four days. Both officers and men were almost perishing through want for a fortnight.

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The deficiency proceeded from the absolute emptiness of the American magazines in every place, and the total want of money and credit to replenish them. So that the general was obliged to call upon the magistrates of the Jersey state, to express his situation to them, and to declare in plain terms, that he and his army were reduced to the alternative of disbanding or catering for themselves, unless the inhabitants would afford them aid. He allotted to each county a certain proportion of flour or grain, and a certain number of cattle to be delivered on certain days. To the honour of the magistrates, and the good dispositions of the people, he it added, that these requisitions were punctually complied with, and in many counties exceeded.

But to return to the southern armies. On the 20th of March, 1780, Admiral Arbuthnot, with a small fleet, crossed the bar, in front of Rebellion road, and anchored in Five Fathom Hole. The American fleet retreated to Charlestown, and the crews and guns of all the vessels, except the *Ranger*, were put on shore to reinforce the batteries. Before the Americans had taken this step, they should have considered, whether the ships were able to defend the bar, and should have sent them off, when they found it impracticable.

On the 12th of April, the British opened their batteries against Charlestown, and a constant fire was kept up between both parties until the 20th. On the 18th of April, Sir Henry Clinton received a reinforcement of 3000 men from New York; and on the 12th of May, Gen. Lincoln, after having made the most vigorous defence he was capable of, was obliged to capitulate. It was stipulated, that the continental troops and sailors should remain prisoners of war until exchanged, and be provided with good and wholesome provisions, in such quantities as were served out to the British troops. The militia were to return home as prisoners on parole, which, as long as they observed, was to secure them from being molested in their property by the British troops. The officers of the army and navy were to keep their swords, pistols, and baggage, which last was not to be searched; but their horses were not to go out of town, but might be disposed of by a person left for the purpose. The garrison, at an hour appointed, was to march out of the town to the ground between the works of the place and the canal, where they were to deposit their arms. The drums were not to beat a British march, nor the colours to be uncased. All civil officers and citizens, who had born arms during the siege, were to be prisoners on parole; and with respect to their property in the city, they were to have

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the same terms as the militia; and all other persons in the town, not described in any article, were notwithstanding to be prisoners upon parole.

The capital having surrendered, the next object of the British was to secure the general submission of the inhabitants. With this view they posted garrisons in different parts of the country, and marched a large body of troops over the Santee, towards the extremity of the state, which borders on the most populous parts of North Carolina. This occasioned the retreat of some American parties, who had advanced into the upper part of South Carolina, in expectation of relieving Charlestown. Among the corps which had come forward with that view, there was one consisting of about 300 continentals, the rear of the Virginia line, commanded by Col. Buford. Tarleton, with about 700 horse and foot, was sent in quest of this party. Having mounted his infantry, he marched 105 miles in fifteen hours, came up with them at the Waxhaws, and demanded their surrender on terms similar to those granted to the continentals at Charlestown. While the flags were passing and repassing on this business, Tarleton kept his men in motion, and, when the truce was ended, had nearly surrounded his adversaries. An action instantly ensued, when the continental party, having partaken of the general consternation

occasioned by the British successes, made but a feeble resistance, and begged for quarter. A few, however, continued to fire. The British cavalry advanced, but were not opposed by the main body of the continentals, who conceived themselves precluded by their submission. The accidental firing of the few was an argument, however, for directing the British legion to charge those who had laid down their arms. In consequence of this order, the unresisting Americans, praying for quarters, were cut in pieces. By Tarleton's official account of this bloody scene, 113 were killed, 50 badly wounded, unable to travel, and left on parole, and 53 made prisoners, while they made such ineffectual opposition as only to kill seven and wound twelve of the British. Lord Cornwallis bestowed on Tarleton the highest encomiums for this enterprize, and recommended him in a special manner to royal favour and patronage.

The expected succours at length arrived from France, on the evening of the 10th of July, at Rhode Island. The Chevalier de Ternay commanded the fleet, which consisted of two ships of 80 guns, one of 74, four of 64, a bomb vessel, and 32 transports. The land forces consisted of four old regiments, besides the legion de Lauzun, and a battalion of artillery, amounting to about

6000

6000 men, under the command of Lieut. Gen. Count de Rochambeau.

About the time that Charlestown surrendered, Sir H. Clinton received intelligence, that a large number of forces and a French fleet, commanded by Mons. Ternay, might soon be expected on the American coast. This induced him to reembark for New York, leaving Lord Cornwallis with about 4000 men, which were deemed fully sufficient for his purposes.

On the 4th of September, was signed the plan of a treaty of commerce between the states of Holland and the United States of America. Mons. de Neufville, being properly authorized by the regency of Amsterdam, engaged, that as long as America should not act contrary to the interest of the states of Holland, the city of Amsterdam would never adopt any measure that might tend to oppose the interest of America; but would, on the contrary, use all its influence upon the states of the Seven United Provinces of Holland, to effect the desired connection. This business was conducted by Mr. Adams, on the part of America.

Lord Cornwallis went on successfully in South Carolina. On the 16th of August he engaged the forces under Gen. Gates, and completely routed them after a long and obstinate contest. Gen. Gates was borne off the field by a torrent of dismayed militia.

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They constituted so great a part of his army, that when he saw them break and run with such precipitation, he lost every hope of victory; and his only care was, if possible, to rally a sufficient number to cover the retreat of the other troops. He retired with Gen. Caswell to Clermont, in hope of halting them in their late encampment; but the further they fled, the more they dispersed, and the generals giving up all as lost, retired with a few attendants to Charlotte.

The Americans lost eight field pieces, the whole of their artillery, with all their ammunition waggons, besides 150 others, and a considerable quantity of military stores, and the greatest part of their baggage. The numbers slain cannot be precisely ascertained, no returns of the militia ever being made after the action; but it is supposed, that the Americans lost about 700 on this occasion. Though Cornwallis's victory was complete, yet, from the account the British gave of the action, it may be inferred, that it was dearly bought, upwards of 500 of their own troops being killed or wounded.

A minute representation of the retreat of the Americans from Charlotte to Salisbury, would be the image of complicated wretchedness. Care, anxiety, pain, humiliation and dejection, poverty, hurry and confusion, promiscuously marked the shocking scene. Painful objects presented themselves to view; several

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several men without an arm, some with but one, and many standing in need of the most kind and powerful assistance.

Lord Cornwallis, notwithstanding his victory, was restrained for some time from pursuing his conquests, by the loss he had sustained in the battle, the extreme heat of the weather, the sickliness of the season, and the want of necessary supplies: he therefore remained at Cambden.

In the month of September, a discovery of the utmost importance was made, which was a scheme for delivering West Point into the hands of Sir Henry Clinton. Gen. Arnold, who had the command of that post, was brave but mercenary, fond of parade, and extremely desirous of acquiring money to defray the expences of it. When he entered Philadelphia after the evacuation, he made Gov. Penn's, the best house in it, his head quarters. This he furnished in a very costly manner, and lived in a stile far beyond his income. He continued his extravagant course of living, was unsuccessful in trade and privateering, his funds were exhausted, and his creditors importunate, while his lust for high life was not in the least abated. He had exhibited heavy accounts and demands against the public; and the commissioners, upon examination, rejected about one half of the amount. He appealed to congress, and a committee was appointed, who were  
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of opinion, that the commissioners had allowed more than the general had a right to expect or demand. This provoked him to outrageous expressions and proceedings. Disgusted at the treatment he had met with, embarrassed in his circumstances, and having a growing expensive family, he turned his thoughts towards bettering his circumstances by new means. In 1779, a correspondence commenced between Gen. Arnold and Major Andre, adjutant-general to the British army, a rising young officer of great hope and merit.

For the speedy completion of the negotiation that was carrying on between Sir Henry and Gen. Arnold, the Vulture sloop of war was stationed in the North River, at such a distance from the American posts, as, without exciting suspicion, would serve for the necessary communication. Before this, a written correspondence, through other channels, had been maintained between Arnold and Andre at New York, under the names of Gustavus and Anderson.

On the 21st of September, the necessary arrangements being made, a boat was sent at night from the shore to the Vulture to fetch Major Andre, which brought him to the beach without the posts of either army, where he met Arnold. The major continued with him during the following day, and at night, the boatmen refusing to conduct him  
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back to the Vulture, which had shifted her position, as she lay exposed to the fire of a cannon sent to annoy her, he was obliged to concert his escape by land. He quitted his uniform, which he had hitherto worn under his furtout, for a common coat. He was furnished with a horse, and under the name of John Anderson, with a passport from Arnold, to go through the lines at White Plains, or lower if he thought proper, he being on public business.

He pursued his journey alone to New York, passed all the guards and posts on the road without suspicion, and was much elated. The next day he travelled without any alarm, and began to consider himself out of danger; but, unhappily for him, three of the New York militia were with others out on a scouting party between the out-posts of the two armies. One of them sprung from his covert, and seized Andre's horse by the bridle. The major, instead of instantly producing his pass, asked the man where he belonged to, who answered, "*To below.*" Andre, suspecting no deceit, said, "*So do I.*" Then declared himself a British officer, and pressed that he might not be detained, for that he was upon urgent business. Upon the other two coming up, and joining their comrade, he discovered his mistake. The confusion that followed was apparent, and they proceeded to search him till they found his papers.

pers. He offered the captors a considerable purse of gold, and a very valuable watch, to let him pass; but they nobly disdained the temptation, besides the fascinating offers of permanent provision, and even of future promotion, on condition of their conveying and accompanying him to New York. They conducted him to Lieut. Col. Jameson, the continental officer, who had the command of the scouting parties, amounting to 800 men, chiefly militia. Arnold's conduct with regard to this body of men, and in other respects, had excited such suspicions in the breast of the lieutenant-colonel, and the rest of the officers, that they had determined upon seizing the general at all events, had he come down and ordered them nearer the enemy. Jameson, notwithstanding his strong jealousy of Arnold, was in the illuc the means of his escape.

Major Andre, in order to give Arnold time to escape, requested that a line might be sent to acquaint him with the detention of Anderson, the name Andre had assumed, which Jameson through an ill-judged delicacy granted. The papers, which were found in the major's boots, were in Arnold's hand-writing, and contained exact returns of the state of the forces, ordnances and defences at West Point and its dependencies, with the artillery orders, critical remarks on the works, an estimate of the number of men  
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that were ordinarily on duty to man them, and the copy of a state of matters that had been laid before a council of war by the commander in chief. These papers were enclosed in a packet to Gen. Washington, accompanied with a letter from the prisoner, avowing himself to be Major Andre, adjutant-general to the British army, relating the manner of his capture, and endeavouring to show, that he did not come under the description of a spy. These papers were forwarded by Jameson.

No sooner had Arnold received the Major's letter, than he hastened on board the Vulture, which lay some miles below Stoney and Verplank's Points; and Arnold had not been long gone, when Washington arrived at his quarters. Had the plot succeeded, the consequences must have been ruinous to the Americans. The forces under Arnold's command must have either laid down their arms, or have been cut to pieces. Their loss, and the immediate possession of West Point, and all its neighbouring dependencies, must have exposed the remainder of Washington's army so to the joint exertion of the British forces, by land and water, that nothing but ruin could have been the result with respect to the Americans.

On the 29th of September, Gen. Washington appointed a board of fourteen general officers, with the assistance of the judge-advocate

vocate general, to examine Major Andre's case, and to determine in what light it ought to be considered. Andre, disdaining all subterfuge and evasion, and studying only to place his character in so fair a light, as might prevent its being shaded by present circumstances, voluntarily confessed more than he was asked, and sought not to palliate any thing relating to himself, while he concealed, with the most guarded and scrupulous nicety, whatever might involve others. The board shewed him every possible mark of indulgence, and sufficiently witnessed how much they felt for his situation. However, public justice obliged them to declare, "that Major Andre ought to be considered as a spy from the enemy; and that agreeable to the law and usage of nations, it is their opinion he ought to suffer death."

Several letters passed between the Generals Clinton and Washington relative to this unhappy affair; but nothing was capable of saving the unfortunate major. On the 2d of October, the tragedy was closed. The major was superior to the terrors of death; but the disgraceful mode of dying, which the usage of war had annexed to his unhappy situation, was infinitely dreadful to him. He was desirous of being indulged with a professional death, and had accordingly written, the day before, a pathetic letter, fraught with all the feelings of a man of sentiment

timent and honour, in which he requested of Gen. Washington, that he might not die on a gibbet. The general consulted his officers on the subject. Pity and esteem wrought so powerfully, that they were all for shooting him, till Greene insisted on it, that his crime was that of a common spy; that the public good required his being hanged; and that, were he shot, the generality would think there were favourable circumstances entitling him to notice and lenity. His observations convinced them, that there would be an impropriety in granting the major's request, while tenderness prevented its being divulged.

When Major Andre was led out to the place of execution, as he went along he bowed himself familiarly to all those with whom he had been acquainted in his confinement. A smile of complacency expressed the serene fortitude of his mind. Upon seeing the preparations at the fatal spot, he asked with some emotion, "Must I die in this manner?" He was told it was unavoidable. He replied, "I am reconciled to my fate, but not to the mode." Soon after, recollecting himself, he added, "It will be but a momentary pang;" and springing upon the cart, he performed the last offices to himself, with a composure that excited the admiration, and melted the hearts of all the spectators. Being told the final moment was at hand, and asked if he had any thing to say,

he answered, " Nothing but to request you will witness to the world, that I die like a brave man." He died universally esteemed and regretted.

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.*

*Anno 1778.*

The British operations against Georgia.  
The affairs of the United States in a deplorable condition.

Gen. Lincoln sent to South Carolina.

*Anno 1779.*

Gen. Ashe surprised and defeated.

Sir Henry Clinton takes Stoney Point.

Count d'Estaing fails from the West Indies for the American coasts.

The French and Americans repulsed at Savannah.

Washington's army in distress for want of bread.

Charlestown taken by the British forces.

*Anno 1780.*

Tarleton defeats Col. Buford.

A French fleet with troops arrive at Newport.

Treaty signed between Holland and America.

Earl Cornwallis defeats Gen. Gates.

Major Andre taken and executed as a spy.

Gen. Arnold makes his escape on board the Vulture British sloop of war.

## C H A P. IX.

SIR Henry Clinton, on the 15th of October, 1780, in obedience to the orders sent him, to prosecute the war with vigour in North Carolina and Virginia, dispatched Gen. Leslie from New York to the bay of Chesapeak, with near 3000 choice troops. He was to co-operate with Lord Cornwallis, who was expected to be far advanced towards, if not to have reached Virginia. In a few days, the fleet arrived in the bay, and the troops were landed in different parts of Virginia.

On the 20th of June, the French and Spanish fleets formed a junction in the West Indies. They amounted to 36 sail of the line, which, with their united land forces, formed such an apparent superiority, as nothing in those seas or islands seemed capable of resisting; but the Spanish troops, being too much crowded on board their transports, together with the length of the voyage, the change of climate and diet, and other circumstances, a most mortal and contagious disorder was generated, which first infected their own seamen, and at length spread, though not with so fatal an effect, through the French fleet and land forces. Besides the great mortality on the passage, the Spaniards landed 1200 sick on their first arrival

at Dominique, and a much greater number afterwards at Guadaloupe and Martinico. Thus the spirit of enterprize was damped, and some part of their strength diminished.

In the month of September, Mr. Laurens was taken on his way from congress to Holland, on the banks of Newfoundland. A packet of papers being thrown over board, and not sinking suddenly, was saved by the boldness and dexterity of an English sailor, and most of them were recovered from the effects of the water. On his arrival in England, he was committed, upon a charge of high treason, as a state prisoner to the Tower, under an order signed by the three secretaries of state. By the medium of his papers, administration came to the knowledge of the eventual treaty of amity and commerce between America and Holland.

In consequence of this discovery, strong remonstrances were made to the States General; but, as no satisfactory answer was returned, Sir Joseph Yorke received orders to withdraw from the Hague; and, on the 20th of December, general reprisals were issued against the ships, goods, and subjects, of the States General.

On the 12th of January, 1781, Gen. Greene's troops consisted of about 1110. The next day, Col. Lee's partizan legion arrived from the northward, consisting of about 100 horsemen, well mounted, and 120 infantry;

infantry; and on the 13th the legion was detached on a secret expedition. They pushed on for George-town, where they surprised several officers, and took them prisoners. Major Irwin, and many more of the garrison, were killed; but the principal part fled to the fort, which Lee was not in a condition to besiege. While this enterprize was carrying on, the enemy aimed a blow at Morgan, who was advised by Greene not to risque too much.

Gen. Leslie, in compliance with his orders, left Virginia, and arrived at Charlestown, and joined Lord Cornwallis, who wished to drive Gen. Morgan from his station, and to deter the inhabitants from joining him. The execution of this business was entrusted to Lieut. Col. Tarleton, who was detached with about 1100 men for that purpose. On the 17th of January, Tarleton came up with Morgan, when an action commenced, which terminated much to the disadvantage of Tarleton.

Tarleton was very much censured for his conduct in this battle, which he was supposed to have lost by his un-officer like impetuosity. Lord Cornwallis, with the expectations of regaining the prisoners, and demolishing Morgan's corps, instantly concluded on a pursuit, which Morgan was aware of, and took his measures accordingly.

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On the the 31st of January, Greene succeeded Morgan in the command of the southern army, when a kind of military race commenced between the pursuing British and the fleeing Americans; but Greene got off before Cornwallis could overtake him.

Lord Cornwallis, being afterwards convinced, from Greene's movements, that he intended to venture an engagement, on the 14th of May sent off his baggage under a proper escort, and the next morning at day-break, marched with the remainder of his army, amounting to about 2400 men, chiefly troops grown veterans in victory, either to meet Greene on the way, or attack him in his encampment.

The battle took place near Guildford courthouse; and, after a hard struggle of near two hours, the Americans retreated in good order to the Reedy Fork, and crossed the river, about three miles from the field of action. Greene lost his artillery, and two ammunition waggons, the greatest part of the horses being killed before the retreat began.

In the month of February, reprisals having been commenced against the Dutch, Rodney and Vaughan received instructions from Great Britain, to direct their views to the reduction of the Dutch island of St. Eustatia. The British fleet and army instantly appeared there, and surrounded it with a great force. Rodney and Vaughan

sent



sent a peremptory summons to the governor, to surrender the island and its dependencies within an hour, accompanied with a threat, that if any resistance was made, he must abide the consequences. Mons. de Graaff, totally ignorant of the rupture between Great Britain and Holland, could scarcely believe the officer, who delivered the summons, to be serious. He returned for answer, that being utterly incapable of making any defence, he must of necessity surrender, only recommending the town and inhabitants to the clemency of the British commanders. The wealth of the place excited the astonishment of the conquerors, the whole island seeming to be one great magazine. All the storehouses were filled with various commodities, and the very beach was covered with hogheads of sugar and tobacco: The value was estimated considerably above three millions sterling. But this was only a part; for above 150 vessels of all denominations, many of them richly laden, were captured in the bay, exclusive of a Dutch frigate of 38 guns, and five smaller. The neighbouring small isles of St. Martin and Saba were reduced in the same manner.

Rodney being informed, that a fleet of about 30 large ships, all richly laden, with sugar and other West India commodities, had sailed from Eustatia for Holland just before his arrival, under convoy of a flag ship of

60 guns, he dispatched the Monarch and Panther, with the Sybil frigate, in pursuit of them. These soon overtook the convoy, when the Dutch admiral refusing to strike his colours, and all remonstrances proving ineffectual, a short engagement took place between his ship, the Mars and the Monarque. He died bravely in defence of his ship, when she instantly struck, and the whole convoy was taken.

The keeping of Dutch colours flying at Eustatia, rendered it for some time a decoy to French, Dutch, and American vessels, a considerable number of which fell accordingly into the hands of the conquerors without trouble.

Preparations began to be made, on the 21th of June, for the army under Gen. Washington to take the field. The Americans marched towards White Plains, where they were joined by the French troops under Rochambeau.

Sir George Rodney, in consequence of information concerning the French fleet under the Count de Grasse, detached the Admirals Sir Samuel Hood and Drake, with seventeen sail of the line, to cruise off Fort Royal for the purpose of intercepting him. On the 28th of April, some of Sir Samuel's headmost ships returned hastily in sight, and with signals announced the appearance of a superior fleet, and a numerous convoy, to  
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the windward of Point Salines. The admiral made a signal for a general chase to windward, and at night it was determined by the admirals to continue the line a-head, so that getting as much as possible to windward, they might close in with Fort Royal at day-light, and cut off the enemy from the harbour.

In the morning the French appeared, their convoy keeping close in with the land, while Count de Grasse drew up his fleet in a line of battle for their protection. Admiral Hood used every manœuvre to bring him to action; but he being to windward, and so having the choice, preferred a long-shot distance. A partial engagement ensued. The van and the nearest ships, in the centre of the British, were exposed to a long and heavy weight of fire, in their struggles to close the French, and get to the windward; but suffered principally in their masts, hulls, and rigging. The action lasted about three hours, when Admiral Hood perceiving, that not one shot in ten of the French reached, and that his attempts to gain the wind were fruitless, ceased firing, and the British fleet bore away for Antigua.

Let us now return to the transactions under Lord Cornwallis. One great object of the British force was the establishment of a strong post and place of arms, and such as might render them perfectly masters of Chesapeake-

sapeak-bay, and therefore they repaired to York Town and Gloucester.

The French and American armies continued their march from the northward, till they arrived at the head of Elk; and within an hour after, they received an express from Count de Grasse, with the joyful account of his arrival and situation. By the 15th of September, all the troops were arrived and landed at Williamsburgh, and preparations were made with all possible dispatch for putting the army in a situation to move down towards York town.

On the 30th of September, Lord Cornwallis was closely invested in York Town. The trenches were opened by the combined armies on the 6th of October, at 600 yards distance from Cornwallis's works. On the 9th they opened their batteries, and continued firing all night without intermission. The next morning, the French opened their batteries on the left, and a tremendous roar of cannon and mortars was continued for six or eight hours without ceasing.

The French and Americans continued to carry on the siege with great success. On the 16th their several batteries were covered with near 100 pieces of heavy ordnance; while the British works were so destroyed, that they could scarcely show a single gun. Thus was Lord Cornwallis reduced to the necessity of preparing for a surrender, or attempting

attempting

attempting an escape. He determined upon the latter. Boats were prepared under different pretences, for the reception of the troops by ten at night, in order to pass them over to Gloucester Point. The arrangements were made with the utmost secrecy. The intention was to abandon the baggage, and to leave a detachment behind to capitulate for the town's people, and for the sick and wounded, his lordship having already prepared a letter on the subject, to be delivered to Gen. Washington after his departure. The first embarkation had arrived at Gloucester Point, and the greater part of the troops were already landed, when the weather, which was before moderate and calm, instantly changed to a most violent storm of wind and rain. The boats with the remaining troops were all driven down the river, and the design of passing over was not only entirely frustrated, but the absence of the boats rendered it impossible to bring back the troops from Gloucester. Thus weakened and divided, the army was in no small danger. However, the boats returned, and the troops were brought back in the course of the forenoon with very little loss.

Things were now hastening to a period, which could be no longer protracted; for the British works were sinking under the weight of the French and American artillery. All hopes of relief from New York were over,

and the strength and spirits of the royal army were broken down and exhausted by their constant and unremitting fatigue. Matters being in this situation, on the 17th of October, Lord Cornwallis sent out a flag with a letter to Gen. Washington, requesting a cessation of arms for twenty-four hours, and that commissioners might be appointed for digesting the terms of capitulation. Commissioners were accordingly appointed; and on the side of the allies, were Visc. de Noailles, and Lieut. Col. Laurens, whose father was in close confinement in the Tower of London, while the son was drawing up articles, by which an English nobleman and a British army became prisoners.

On the 19th of October, the posts of York Town and Gloucester were surrendered. The honour of marching out with colours flying, which had been denied to Gen. Lincoln, was now refused to Lord Cornwallis, and Lincoln was appointed to receive the submission of the royal army at York Town, precisely in the same way his own had been conducted about eighteen months before. The troops that surrendered prisoners exceeded 7000; but so great was the number of sick and wounded, that there were only 3800 capable of doing duty. The officers and soldiers retained their baggage and effects. Fifteen hundred seamen shared the same fate as the garrison. The Guada-

loupé frigate of 24 guns, and a number of transports, were surrendered to the conquerors. About twenty transports had been sunk or burnt during the siege. The land forces became prisoners to congress; but the seamen and ships were assigned to the French admiral. The Americans obtained a fine train of artillery, consisting of 75 brass ordnance, and 69 iron cannon, howitzers, and mortars.

On the 24th of October, a fleet destined for the relief of Lord Cornwallis arrived off the Chesapeake; but, on receiving the news of his surrender, they returned to New York. The fleet consisted of 25 ships of the line, two fifties, and eight frigates. When they appeared off the Chesapeake, the French made no manner of movement, though they had 36 ships of the line, being perhaps satisfied with their present success. Every argument and persuasion was used with the Count de Grasse to induce him to aid the combined army in an operation against Charlestown; but the advanced season, the orders of his court, and his own engagements to be punctual to a certain time fixed for his future operations, prevented his compliance. His instructions had fixed his departure to the 15th of October, and he had already exceeded that time. On the 27th, the troops under the Marquis St. Simon began to embark for the West Indies, and

172 THE HISTORY OF  
about the 5th of November de Grasse failed  
from the Chesapeak.

*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.*

*Anno 1780.*

Sir Henry Clinton sends 3000 troops to the  
bay of Chesapeak.

The French and Spanish fleet form a con-  
junction in the West Indies.

Mr. Laurens taken in his passage to Hol-  
land.

Sir Joseph York leaves the Hague.

*Anno 1781.*

Lieut. Col. Tarleton detached after Gen.  
Morgan by whom he his defeated.

Sir George Rodney and Gen. Vaughan take  
St. Eustatia, St. Martin, and Saba.

The French troops join the Americans un-  
der Washington.

Sir Samuel Hood and Count de Grasse en-  
gage.

Lord Cornwallis repairs to York Town and  
Gloucester.

Is obliged to capitulate, and surrender York  
Town and Gloucester.

De Grasse sails for the West Indies.

C H A P.



## C H A P. X.

ON the 27th of November, the King of England went to the house of peers, and opened the sessions of parliament. Warm debates took place, on account of the ruinous manner in which the American war was continued; but Lord North and his party, who thought they had not yet carried things far enough, maintained a considerable majority in the house of commons. Mr. Burke had made several motions, relative to the release of Mr. Laurens from the Tower. However, at length, Mr. Laurens was brought before Lord Mansfield, on the last day of the year, in consequence of an order from the secretary of state, and was discharged upon certain conditions.

The naval force of France and Spain in the West Indies, in the month of February, 1782, amounted to 60 ships of the line, and their land forces when joined would have formed a considerable army. Jamaica had no more than six incomplete battalions of regular troops and the militia of the island to defend it; and therefore, in case of an attack, must have been soon conquered. The arrival of Sir George Rodney with twelve sail of the line at Barbadoes, and his subsequent junction with Sir Samuel Hood's

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squadron,

squadron, together with the arrival of three ships of the line from England a few days afterwards, perhaps providentially saved Jamaica from falling into the hands of the enemy. The English fleet at St. Lucia amounted to 36 ships of the line, and the force under de Grasse at Martinico to 34. The metal of the French is always heavier than that of the English, in equal rates, so that in this point the French had the advantage.

The van of the British fleet was commanded by Sir Samuel Hood, the centre by Sir George Rodney, and the rear by Admiral Sir Francis Drake. The three divisions of the French fleet were under Count de Grasse, Mons. de Vaudreuil, and Mons. de Bogaïnville.

On the 8th of April, the French fleet began to turn out of Fort Royal harbour early in the morning, with a great convoy under their protection, all bound to the French or Spanish ports in Hispaniola. De Grasse, in order to avoid any encounter on his passage, meant to keep close in under the islands, till he had eluded the pursuit of the English. However, their departure from the bay was so speedily communicated by signals from the frigates, and the English fleet was in such excellent preparation, that all the ships were clear of Gros Islet Bay by noon, and pursued with the utmost expedition; so that the French saved only a few hours, by being

masters

masters of the time of departure. The English gained sight of them under Dominique at night, and afterwards regulated the pursuit by signals.

Early the next morning, Count de Grasse formed the line of battle, and thereby afforded an opportunity to his convoy for proceeding on their course, while he remained to abide the consequences. The van of the English fleet first closed with the French centre, while the English centre and rear were becalmed. The action commenced about nine o'clock on the ninth. The *Barfleur*, Sir Samuel Hood's own ship, had at times seven and generally three ships firing upon her, and none of the division escaped encountering a disproportionate force. The firm and effectual resistance, with which they supported all the efforts of the enemy's superiority, was to the highest degree glorious. At length, the leading ships of the centre were enabled to come up to their assistance. These were soon followed by Sir George Rodney in the *Formidable*, with his seconds, the *Namur* and the *Duke*, all of 90 guns: they made and supported a most tremendous fire. De Grasse now changed the nature of the action, and kept at such a distance during the remainder of the engagement, as might prevent any thing decisive happening. The rest of the English fleet coming up, de Grasse withdrew his ships from the action,

and

and evaded all the efforts of the English commanders for its renewal. Two of the French ships were so damaged, that they were obliged to quit the fleet, and put into Guadaloupe. On the side of the English, the Royal Oak and the Montague suffered extremely; but they were capable of being repaired at sea, so as not to be under the necessity of quitting the fleet.

On the 11th the French fleet weathered Guadaloupe, and gained such a distance, that the body of their fleet could only be descried from the mast-heads of the British centre, and all hopes of Sir George Rodney's coming up with them seemed to be at an end. In this critical situation, one of the French ships, which had suffered in the action, was perceived, about noon, to fall off considerably from the rest of the fleet to leeward. This produced signals from the English admiral for a general chase, which was so vigorous, that the Agamemnon, and some others of the headmost of the English line, were coming up so fast with this ship, that she would assuredly have been cut off before evening, had not her signals and eminent danger induced de Grasse to bear down with his whole fleet to her assistance. This movement put it out of the power of the French to avoid fighting. The pursuing English fell back into their station, and a close line was formed. The French also prepared

prepared for battle with the greatest resolution, and the night passed in preparations on both sides.

About seven o'clock in the morning, of the 12th of April, the battle commenced, and was continued with unremitting fury until near the same hour in the evening. As the English came up, they ranged slowly along the French line, and close under their lee. Being so near, every shot took effect, and the French ships being so full of men, the carnage in them was prodigious. The Formidable Admiral Rodney's ship, fired near eighty broadsides, and it may be supposed the rest were not idle. The French stood and returned this dreadful fire with the utmost firmness, each side fighting, as if the honour and fate of their country were that day to be decided.

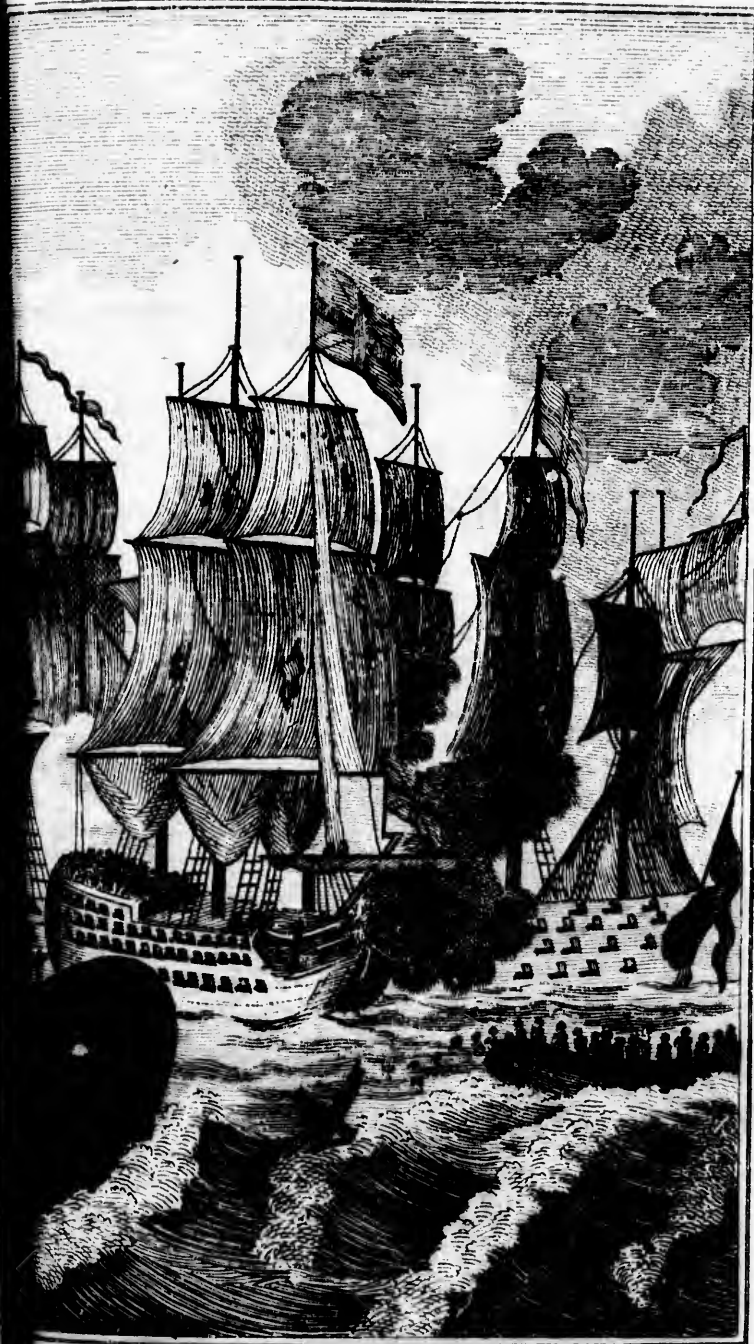
Sir George Rodney in the Formidable, with his seconds the Namur and the Duke, and immediately supported by the Canada, between twelve and one o'clock, bore directly and with full sail athwart the French line, and successfully broke through, about three ships short of the centre, where Count de Grasse commanded in the Ville de Paris of 110 guns. Being followed and supported by the remainder of his division, and wearing round close upon the enemy, he effectually separated their line. This bold adventure proved decisive. The battle lasted till

till sun-set, for the French fought with the greatest bravery.

The British fleet having now gained the wind of the French, their general confusion was completed. Hood's division had been long becalmed and kept out of action; but his head ships and part of his centre, as far at least as the *Barfleur*, which he himself commanded, came up at this juncture, and contributed to render the victory more decisive. The *Cæsar*, *Glorieux*, and *Hector*, soon struck their colours, but not till after they had made the most noble defence.

Count de *Grasse* was nobly supported, even after the line was broken; and the *Diadem*, a French 74, went down by a single broadside, in a generous exertion to save him. The *Ville de Paris* was almost reduced to a wreck, but de *Grasse* still held out. At length, Hood in the *Barfleur* approached him just at sun-set, and poured in a most destructive fire. The *Ville de Paris* supported all these shocks for a quarter of an hour after, when she struck to Sir Samuel Hood. It was said, that, at the time she struck, there were but three men left alive and unhurt on the upper deck, and that the Count was one of them,

The *Cæsar* was unfortunately set on fire, and blew up in the night of the action. A lieutenant and fifty English seamen perished, with about 400 prisoners. The number of the



*Defeat of De Grasse.*

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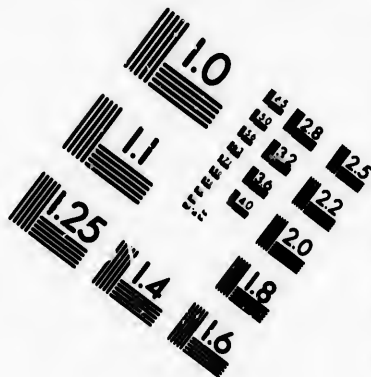
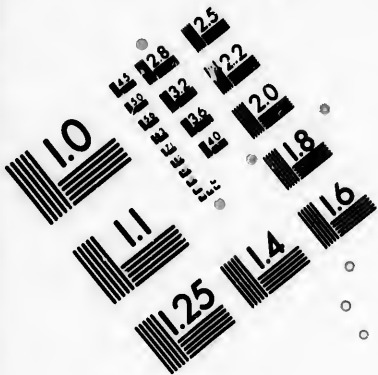


the French slain in this engagement, and that of the ninth, was computed at 3000, and near double that number wounded. The small superiority of British ships, in point of number, contributed nothing to the success of the day, as more of Hood's division than that difference amounted to, were prevented coming into action through the want of wind. The whole loss of the English, in killed and wounded in the two actions, was stated only at 1050, of which 253 were killed on the spot.

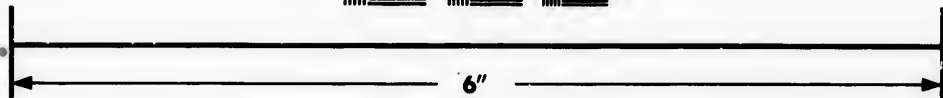
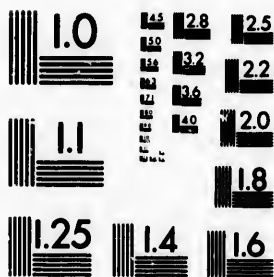
In the Ville de Paris were found thirty-six chests of money, destined to the pay and subsistence of the troops in the designed attack on Jamaica. Sir Samuel Hood being sent in pursuit of the scattered enemy, on the 19th he came up and took the Jason and Caton, of 64 guns each, and two frigates.

Thus the French lost eight ships of the line: six were in possession of the English, one had been sunk, and the Cæsar blew up after her capture. The English having joined off Cape Tiberoon, and the French having no force to the windward, Sir George Rodney proceeded with the disabled ships and prizes to Jamaica, as well for their repair, as the greater security of the island, should the combined fleet still venture upon the prosecution of their former design. Sir Samuel Hood was left with about 25 ships of the line,





**IMAGE EVALUATION  
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



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line, to keep the sea, and watch the motions of the enemy.

Let us now return to North America, where all parties seemed to be heartily tired of the war. On the 5th of May, Sir Guy Carleton arrived at New York, and on the 7th he wrote to Gen. Washington, and sent him some public papers, that his excellency might learn from them, the disposition that prevailed in the government and people of Great Britain, relative to the making of a peace with America.

The British administration having resolved upon abandoning all offensive operations in America, the scheme of evacuating all the weakest posts in the United States was adopted. Accordingly, on the 11th of July, Savannah was evacuated, and the Americans immediately took possession of it, the works and town being left perfect.

On the 14th of December, Gen. Leslie, who commanded at Charlestown, completed the embarkation of his troops on his quitting that town. Gen. Wayne, with the legion and light infantry, had been before their works for several days, by order of Gen. Greene. It was hinted to him from Gen. Leslie, through a certain medium, that if they were permitted to embark without interruption, every care should be taken for the preservation of the town. Wayne was directed to accede to the proposal, the British also agreeing

ing not to fire on the town after getting on board. The conditions being fully understood by both parties, Charlestown was evacuated and possessed without the least confusion, the American advance following close on the British rear. The governor was conducted into his capital the same day, the civil police established the day following, and on the third the town was opened for business. On the 17th, the British crossed the bar, and went to sea.

Every thing now seemed to announce the approach of peace. The American commissioners expedited the negotiation with the utmost assiduity, and on the 30th of November, provisional articles were agreed upon and signed, to take effect whenever terms of peace should be finally settled with the court of France. The business was finished so privately and unexpectedly that the ministers and ambassadors, as well as others in and about the court of Versailles, were surprised upon hearing the news.

We must not here avoid mentioning an unfortunate event, which happened at the close of the still more unfortunate American war. Ten men of war, including Count de Grasse's ships, with a large fleet of merchantmen from Jamaica, suffered exceedingly by a tremendous gale of wind off Newfoundland, on the 17th of September. The Ville de Paris and the Glorieux foundered, and only one man out of the complement of both

Q ships

ships escaped to tell the melancholy tale. The Hector also sunk ; but being descried in time by a snow that made towards them, the crew were saved. The Ramilies went down, but her people were saved by the merchantmen in company. The Centaur was likewise lost, and all her company, except twelve, with the captain, who got into the only remaining boat. They traversed a space of near 800 miles in the Atlantic ocean, without compass or quadrant, and with a blanket for a sail. They had only two biscuits divided among them every twenty-four hours ; and as much water during that space to every man, as the neck of a wine bottle broken off would hold. At the expiration of sixteen days, when the last division of biscuit and water had been made, to their inexpressible joy, they discovered the Portuguese island of Fayal, where they safely arrived at night, and received every assistance their melancholy situation demanded.

On the 3d of September, 1783, the definitive treaties between Great Britain, France, and Spain, were signed at Versailles by the Duke of Manchester, and the plenipotentiaries of the said Court. On the same day, the definitive treaty with Great Britain and the United States of America was also signed at Paris, by David Hartley, Esq. the British plenipotentiary, and the plenipotentiaries of the said state.

By the articles of this treaty, his Britannic majesty acknowledged the independence of the United States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. He also relinquished all claims to the government of them, and consented to treat with them as free and independent people. Their boundaries were also settled, and they were allowed the liberty of fishing and drying fish, as usual, on the banks of Newfoundland.

The particulars of the treaty between Great Britain, France, and Spain will be found in our History of England, to which it more properly belongs.

Thus ended the unhappy American war, which added to the national debt of the mother-country one hundred and twenty millions, besides the loss of many thousands of our bravest officers, soldiers, and seamen, to the eternal infamy and disgrace of those ministers, who advised and carried it on, contrary to the general voice of the people!

*Memorable*



*Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.**Anno 1781.*

Mr. Laurens discharged from his confinement  
in the Tower of London.

*Anno 1782.*

The fleets of Sir George Rodney and Count  
de Grasse meet in the West Indies.

They engage, and Count de Grasse is de-  
feated and taken.

Savannah evacuated by the British forces.

And afterwards Charlestown in South Caro-  
lina.

Provisional articles of peace signed between  
the British and American commissioners.

*Anno 1783.*

The definitive treaties signed between Great  
Britain, France, Spain, and America.

THE END.

*Chapter.*

Confinement

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